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ALL THE BEST

SEVEN ★ DAYSIES



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THE LOCALS' GUIDE TO VERMONT



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HEN OF THE WOOD

Burlington & Waterbury



DOC PONDS

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FOOD



Vermonters' extreme enthusiasm for food was evident even in their Dayies votes. Rather than simply naming a Burlington establishment for best burger and fries, voters got specific, giving a thumbs-up to its 400 Burger and truffle fries, onto the fish tacos at Manhattan Pizza & Pub and the chocolate creemee at Joe's Snack Bar. It made tallying votes kind of a bitch, but hey. At least we know what we're ordering next time we go out to eat.

The 45 categories that follow are designed to point you in the right direction too, whether you're hankering for breakfast, lunch, dinner or dessert.

Vermont's food scene encompasses everything from innovative farm-to-table dining to grueling late-night fare popular among the college crowd, so you'll find a veritable smorgasbord here. Looking for the best This food? The best. Food truck? We present you with some tasty options.

Chefs and restaurateurs are always coming and going, making the Dayies food section the most dynamic. New winners popped up in categories such as best comfort food, best vegetarian farm and best restaurant for dessert. That last one is new to the Dayies this year, and Burlington mainstay Marlettes Café earned the inaugural win. We're pretty sure its decadent German chocolate cake had something to do with it.

There's no denying it: We're all lucky to have a seat at this table.

**BEST
VEGETARIAN
RESTAURANT**
OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

GREEN GODDESS CAFÉ

It's all things fresh. Green Goddess Café is not a by-the-book vegetarian restaurant; its menu offers breakfasts built around sunny eggs and saffron maple bacon. And the Cuban sandwich stacked with long-roasted pork and slabs of smoky ham is a favorite at lunch. But Green Goddess' vegetarian fare is more than just an afterthought: Imagine fresh-baked gnocchi, basil pesto with pesto and melty mozzarella, leafy greens and avocados — or a sprightly Asian salad dressed with crisp summer veggies and fresh danzane noodles. And with many items now packaged in grab-and-go format at the café's new takeout counter, Green Goddess is a winning choice for everyone.

818 S. Main St., Stowe, 252-5155
green-goddess.com

BEST NEW RESTAURANT (OPENED IN LAST YEAR)

Barnyard Wood Crafted Pizza

The aptly named Barnyard — run by brothers of the youthfully hipster — serves pizza fresh from the oven in the shape of wood-fired pizzas, salads, soups, and their own twist of the traditional and their local produce. 2709 Washington Rd., South Burlington, 802-592-2499; barnyardwood.com

Other finalists:

- Bistro du Magasin** 207 College St., Burlington 802-862-1000; bistrodumagasin.com
- Doc Fazio's** 215 Church St., St. Albans, 760-875-1100; docfazios.com
- Crown House Kitchen** 1050 Main St., Montpelier 802-868-5100; crownhousevt.com
- The Split Rail Kitchen** 212 Main St., Winooski 802-868-8000; splitrakitchen.com

BEST RESTAURANT

Hen of the Wood

With locations in a former grist mill and in the original Ham's Barn, Hen of the Wood is a solid choice for a rustic meal, a creative wine list, and creative farm-to-table cooking. 15 Cherry St., Burlington 802-595-1200; 105 Church St., Winooski 802-595-1200; henofthewoodvt.com

Other finalists:

- The Farmhouse Tap & Grill** 140 Main St., Burlington 802-862-9999; farmhousetapvt.com
- Loving's Italian B-Cafe** 75 Church St., Burlington 802-863-3750; lovingst.com
- Hissey Lanes** 614 Main St., Winooski, 802-868-9999; hisseylanes.com
- The Kitchen Restaurant** 109 Main St., South Burlington, 802-860-5555; thekitchenresturant.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Prohibition Pig

This is one of the top burgers in the state, if not the country, and the menu is filled with Aladdin-themed items. With barbecue "pigs" (sausages) and one of the largest craft beer lists in the region, Prohibition Pig turns up the volume. 244-4500 Main St., Winooski 802-540-1111; prohibitionpig.com

Other finalists:

- Blue Poutine Station** 100 Route 2, South Hero, 322-4554; bluepoutinestation.com
- Kismet** 51 State St., Montpelier 2023-854-4444; kismetvt.com
- Miceli's on the Hill** 4992 Route 100, Winooski 802-865-1444; micelisonthehill.com

BEST CHEF

Erie Warnstedt (Hen of the Wood)

This seven-time nominee for the James Beard Award for best chef in the Northeast serves his paninis with bacon and blue cheese paired with a side of the 100% Henry St. (the original 1860s 100% Henry St., Winooski 802-868-1200; henofthewoodvt.com)

Other finalists:

- Aaron Franklin and Nathan Niedre** (Hickory Landing) 210 Main St., Winooski 802-868-1200; hickorylandingvt.com
- David C. Collier** (Lejeune's Kitchen & Bar) 75 Church St., Montpelier 802-373-9100; lejeunesvt.com
- George Landenberger (Avondale)** 480 Pine St., Montpelier 802-223-4400; avondalevt.com
- Peter Paganini** (Paganini's) 201 Main St., South Hero 802-863-4214; paganinisvt.com

BEST FAMILY RESTAURANT

American Flatbread Burlington Hearth

With locations and small operations and the opportunity to split toppings, these flatbreads — including toppings such as wood-fired oven — are perfect for all ages. 100 Main St., Montpelier 802-223-0000; americanflatbread.com

Other finalists:

- Blueberry Kitchen** 333 Riverfront Ave., Burlington 446-3800; blueberrykitchen.com
- The Farmhouse Tap & Grill** 140 Main St., Burlington 802-862-9999; farmhousetapvt.com
- The Skinny Pancake** 90 Main St., Burlington 802-863-9999; theskinnypancakevt.com
- The Whimsical Restaurant** 1005 Winooski Ave., South Burlington, 802-863-5100; whimsicalrestaurant.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Picasso Pizzeria & Lounge

This spotless pizzeria in the Berkshires provides family entertainment at the pizza, pasta and salad joint. Friendly service, a little caloric menu and a game room make sure there's room for a full meal. 100 Route 202, Rte. 102, Adams 210-373-3000; picassopizzeria.com

Other finalists:

- Blue Poutine Station** 100 Route 2, South Hero, 322-4554; bluepoutinestation.com
- Kismet** 51 State St., Montpelier 2023-854-4444; kismetvt.com
- Miceli's on the Hill** 4992 Route 100, Winooski 802-865-1444; micelisonthehill.com

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2012-2013

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Joan, Jon, Jordan, Josh, Justin,
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Kristen, Laura, Marc, Michelle,
Mike, Mike, Mikey, Mike,
Nate, Neff, Poodle, Phil, Phil,
Ray, Rob, Rob, Sam, Sam,
Sam, Sean, Shalonda, Steve,
Teagan, Tom, Topher, Tori**

23 South Main Street • Waterbury • Vermont

 prohibitionpig.com 



FOOD

BEST RESTAURANT FOR DESSERT*

Mirabelles Café

A bakery turned grande patisserie adjoins a historic former general store in a former schoolhouse. In addition to sweets, such as an intense British cabinet, baked berry tarts, brown butter tarts, cream puffs and more, (707 Main St., Burlington 802-860-3114; mirabellescafe.com)

Other finalists:

- **Hen of the Woods**, 53 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1234; henofthewoods.com
- **Savory Roots & Celi**, 175 Church St., Burlington 802-863-5059; savoryrootsandceli.com
- **The Saxy Pie Pancake**, 160 Lake St., Burlington, 540-278-1493 (83 Main St., Winooski 252-2353; 3 Lorraine St., Hinesburg 802-211-9707; thesaxypancake.com)
- **Trattoria Bella**, 51 St. Paul St., Burlington, 802-863-2323; trattoriabellabvt.com

BEST BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

Penny Glass Café

Long-time regional foodie favorite now adds a full-service dining room, offering breakfast, brunch, business lunches and party-style catered options to name a few (180 Church St., Burlington 802-864-5495; pennylunch.com)

Other finalists:

- **Magnolia Bistro**, 1 Lorraine Lane, Burlington, 802-864-1499; magnolia-bistro.com
- **Mountain Cafe**, 180 Main St., Winooski, 802-863-2200; mountaincafe.com
- **Stonewall Bistro**, 60 Main St., Winooski, 802-863-0001; stonewallbistro.com
- **The Varsity** (Mirabelles Café and Bakery), 175 Church St., Burlington 802-860-3114; thevaristy.com

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

158 Main Restaurant & Bakery

Burroughs is only on the weekend, but the daily breakfasts and Sunday brunches are a success, though restaurants close their doors to conduct pancake, 14 types of omelettes, breakfast sandwiches and waffles (158 Main St., Jeffersonville 802-861-1588; 158main.com)

Other finalists:

- **Bear's Kitchen Kitchen**, 180 Main St., Winooski 205-860-1100; bearskitchen.com
- **Kleiner's**, 52 Church St., Montpelier 802-864-4400; kleiners.com



BEST LUNCH

The Farmhouse Tap & Grill

Breakfast and lunch in a historic building featuring live music and a cigar lounge. Heirloom salads, house salads and soups, plus a variety of sandwiches. Just this kind of food begins to be appreciated, too (140 Main St., Huntington, 802-863-0319; thefarmhousetapandgrill.com)

Other finalists:

- **Henry's Eatery & Celi**, 180 Church St., Burlington 802-863-5059; henryscafe.com
- **Penny Glass Café**, 180 Church St., Burlington, 802-863-5059; pennylunch.com
- **Catley and 1885 Staves Soups**, 211 College St., Burlington 802-864-1885; catleyand1885.com

BEST SIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Prohibition Pig

This destination restaurant is more than the craft beer, barbecue, cocktails or triple lunches Friday night. It's a destination for foodies looking for a satisfying selection of meat and sides. Open any day of the week (140 Main St., Winooski 802-863-5059; prohibitionpig.com)

Other finalists:

- **Prairie Patisserie & Lounge**, 1995 Huntington Ave., Somerville, MA 02145; prairiepatisserie.com
- **William's Kitchen**, 34 Main St., Montpelier, 802-862-5440; williamskitchen.com

BEST PLACE TO GET LATE-NIGHT FOOD

Kountry Kart Deli

In the mood for a KFC? This barbecue restaurant is located on the former site of the former KFC. It's got menu items like 3.99 \$5.99 \$8.99 \$10.99 \$12.99 \$14.99 \$16.99 \$18.99 \$19.99 \$21.99 \$23.99 \$25.99 \$27.99 \$29.99 \$31.99 \$33.99 \$35.99 \$37.99 \$39.99 \$41.99 \$43.99 \$45.99 \$47.99 \$49.99 \$51.99 \$53.99 \$55.99 \$57.99 \$59.99 \$61.99 \$63.99 \$65.99 \$67.99 \$69.99 \$71.99 \$73.99 \$75.99 \$77.99 \$79.99 \$81.99 \$83.99 \$85.99 \$87.99 \$89.99 \$91.99 \$93.99 \$95.99 \$97.99 \$99.99 \$101.99 \$103.99 \$105.99 \$107.99 \$109.99 \$111.99 \$113.99 \$115.99 \$117.99 \$119.99 \$121.99 \$123.99 \$125.99 \$127.99 \$129.99 \$131.99 \$133.99 \$135.99 \$137.99 \$139.99 \$141.99 \$143.99 \$145.99 \$147.99 \$149.99 \$151.99 \$153.99 \$155.99 \$157.99 \$159.99 \$161.99 \$163.99 \$165.99 \$167.99 \$169.99 \$171.99 \$173.99 \$175.99 \$177.99 \$179.99 \$181.99 \$183.99 \$185.99 \$187.99 \$189.99 \$191.99 \$193.99 \$195.99 \$197.99 \$199.99 \$201.99 \$203.99 \$205.99 \$207.99 \$209.99 \$211.99 \$213.99 \$215.99 \$217.99 \$219.99 \$221.99 \$223.99 \$225.99 \$227.99 \$229.99 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GOOD FOOD SAMARITAN

FOOD

BEST PLACE TO EAT ALONE

City Market/ Onion River Co-op

Front on your sandwich, soloator sandwich in the separate eating area at the front of the market with everything from meat to people watching around. Otherwise you get them to go, and when you bring it to someone, there are actual tables. 100 3rd St. Winooski Ave., Burlington, 860-8620 • citymarket.coop

Other places to eat

- **El Dorado Taqueria Y Cantina**, 100 Bank St., Burlington, 863-3887 • el-dorado.com
- **Laundr's Bistro & B&B**, 73 Church St., Burlington, 863-9323 • laundrs.com
- **White Potato Café**, 150 C. Henry St., Burlington, 561-1585 • whitepotato.com
- **Zippy and EPP's Deli**, 201 College St., Burlington, 863-5700 • zippyandepps.com

BEST LOCALLY OWNED GROCERY STORE

City Market/Onion River Co-op

This co-op carries co-workers of every thickness with local and organic fruits and veggies. Check out the India section (301 S. Winooski Ave., Burlington, 863-5700 • citymarket.coop)

Other places to eat

- **Healthy Living Market and Deli**, 2020 Danvers St., South Burlington, 863-5855 • healthylivingmarket.com
- **Shoreline Supermarket**, 20 Shoreline Shopping Park, South Burlington, 863-8375 • shorelinesupermarket.com
- **Superior Market**, 101 Main St., South Burlington, 863-4700 • superiormarket.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Hunger Mountain Coop

Montpelier's new food co-op offers a wide variety of healthy, locally sourced food, from meat to fresh produce to grain-free goods. Items unique to the market are grilled cornhearts, cast ironstone, and Kelly-the-Chef wine trials (800-841-0023; hungermountain.coop)

Other places to eat

- **Community Natural Market**, 525 Remond St., Stowe, 253-4424 • communitynaturalmarket.com
- **The Farm Store**, 153 Main St., Jeffersonville, 861-9455 • thefarmstorevt.com
- **The Mountain Market**, 100 Main St., Montpelier, 823-7037 • mountainmarket.net



Ren Weiner

Age: 40

Occupation: Cook, Miss. Winniwood, Town, Winooski

Most locals know Ren Weiner for her sheep treats, which she delivers each weekend to local spots such as Scoot & Co. and Pergola Café & Eatery. The paleo flatbread treats come studded with fresh berries or sour cherries, or maybe sprinkled with candied walnuts, chopped pistachios or other toppings. Weiner leaves each batch with raw and yeast-free, fermented slowly for two days.

The doughnuts have a healthy feel, too, but Weiner says her plain-looking pretzel is a top favorite—soft and substance-free and moist—which doesn't pay the bills. The baker spends Wednesdays prepping and packing meals at the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf. In 2010, she founded FoodFighter, a community奔走组织 supporting local food issues. She sits on the board of Slow Food Vermont and organizes meetings and workshops examining food waste, labor activism and other concerns. In the past year, she helped start a local food co-op and went to the Trade Center of Vermont, the Economic Justice Institute, Vermont and Social Justice, and the Vermont Community Jamboree, where she regularly mentors young people—in cooking and food and agricultural issues—at local schools and colleges.

As Ren's business Weiner sees working as a sort of alternative to farmers, cooks, organizations and communities. In her mind, feed is easy to Patel (social, economic and agricultural) change—and serving instead is a way to serve others. Ren's could taste better than that?

Check out more sweet possibilities at adamsberryfarm.com or misswinniwood.com.

Pawnee pie **spuds** Renard and Pupper Theater in Essex

Underappreciated
experience
service
adventure
The Good Food Truck and its growing
population

Burlington High
School's Fork in
the Road food truck
and FoodFighter's
school garden program
that Sarah Heubauer is
working on, and the Vermont
Community Garden Network

New local **like a pro** **at the Farmers**
Market Get a bacon-fat dog at
Maple Wind Farm's stand, wrap it in a lettuce wrap, sprinkle the Green
Mountain Provisions, and top it off with a sprout from Subversives,
and you've got yourself a Half
Pint Farm sandwich from Biggs
Muth. Muth is down with an Extra
Bacon sandwich from the juice bar. Then
drink a Northern Bitter coffee-milk
cold brew for dessert.

HANNAH PULMER EGAN

BEST FARMERS MARKET VENDOR

Doughnut Dilemma

These artisanal doughnuts are popular baked-in-their-baking-skins afternoons at craft fairs at the Burlington Farmers' Market, but the ones from the Fresh Baked Doughnut Company (80 Main St., Burlington, 860-8384 • freshbakeddoughnutcompany.com)

Other products

- **Earth Balance**, 101 W. Franklin Ave., Burlington, 863-4126 • earthbalance.com
- **Easy Loop**, 1001 Congress St., Burlington, 862-3045 • easylap.com
- **Half Pint Farm**, 100 International Rd., Burlington, 328-8273 • halfpintfarm.com
- **Locavore**, 241 Summer St., Burlington, 861-8239 • locavore.com

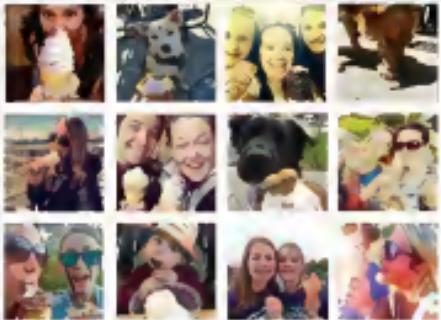
BEST FOOD TRUCK

Beannie's Bus

This unrefined school bus pulled up to Burlington in 1984—and before the food truck trend. At Battery Park, the older Beannie's carries the basics: hot dogs, hamburgers, fries and corn dogs. (Battery Park, Burlington's best-known food court)

Other products

- **Burger Barn**, Cambridge, 730-3600 • burgerbarn.com
- **Delia's**, Bellows Falls, 324-8552 • deliasvt.com
- **Locavore**, Burlington, 328-5889 • locavore.com
- **Lazy Farmer**, Burlington, 862-7446 • lazyfarmervt.com



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FOOD

BEST FOOD CART

Hong's Chinese Dumplings

Decadent, sweet dumplings. It's effects pervade with a new flavor under the most satisfying chow mein and shrimp dumplings. [Journals Street, Burlington, 802-860-1100; hongsdumplings.com]

Other Joints:

- **The Donut Hole**, 111 Main St., Burlington, 802-860-5100; thedonuthole.com
- The Donut Hole, 111 Main St., Burlington, 802-860-5100; thedenuthole.com
- South End Bistro, 113 Church St., Burlington, 349-0203; [Facebook](http://facebook.com)
- Taco Gordo, Church Street, Burlington, 802-861-1429; tacogordobvt.tumblr.com

BEST BREAD BAKERY

Red Hen Baking Co.

With 10 bakeries, 30 kinds of artisan breads, three pastries per day, and made-with-gold flour sourced from Vermont's Gold Mill, you can get something at lunch or in the cold too. [100 Main St., Middlebury, 802-366-0000; redhenbaking.com]

Other Bakeries:

- August First Bakery & Cafe, 145 S. Champlain St., Burlington, 802-860-2100; augustfirstbakehouse.com
- Bread & Honey, 233 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1234; breadandhoneyvt.com
- King of Knead Company, 10 Farmhouse Lane, Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, 802-877-1000; kingofkneadcompany.com
- Old Town Bakery, 332 Farmhouse Lane, Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, 802-877-1000; oldtownvt.com

BEST SWEETS BAKERY

Mirabelles Café

Home-baked pastries, cookies, cakes, and pies, as well as daily specials and month specials, plus a full bakery case. The famous Mirabelle French-style lunch-style, the Roulotte (check for time to due to 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-860-3000; mirabellesvt.com).

Other Bakeries:

- August First Bakery & Cafe, 145 S. Champlain St., Burlington, 802-860-2100; augustfirstbakehouse.com
- Brio's Bakery, 1001 M. Viroqua Ave., Burlington, 802-862-1100; briosbakeryvt.com
- Chaffin's Tea Cafe & Bistro, p. 201 [see also], 7 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1100; burlington.mbz.vt.rr.com
- My Little Cupcake, 207 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-5332; mylittlecupcakevt.com

BEST THAI RESTAURANT

Tiny Thai Restaurant

The dinner menu...is full of unique dishes, like lemongrass chicken and lemongrass ribs...leeks, lime, and lemongrass...Thai basil and red basil...tobacco, Ash for the authentic. [101 Main St., Middlebury, 802-366-4810; tinythairestaurantvt.com]

Other Restaurants:

- East West Fine Bakery & Cafe, 145 S. Champlain St., Burlington, 802-860-2100; eastwestvt.com
- Royal Orchid Thai Restaurant, 30 Elm St., Middlebury, 802-368-1000; royalorchidthait.com
- Sook Thai, 11 Elm St., Middlebury, 802-368-1000; sookthait.com
- Thai Kitchen Restaurant, 333 Sherman Rd., St. Albans, 802-869-0000; thaitkitchenvt.com

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

SPLASH AT THE BOATHOUSE

Plenty of Burlington natives offer al fresco dining, but only one lets you sit on the water. Literally. At Burlington's Splash at the Boathouse, the outdoor seating is located on a floating dock. You can enjoy the view of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks while eating a lobster Cobb salad, some Bahama Rum coconut shrimp or fish tacos. Splash is also an event space, hosting weddings, dance classes and business meetings. Whatever brings you there, watching the sunset over the water as you dine is an unparallelled experience. Arriving by boat? No problem. They are alight for that.

[2 College St., Burlington, 802-2244; splashattheboathouse.com]

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT

A Single Pebble

The only restaurant of General Tso's in this authentic Asian eatery. One of those dishes tasting menu is the hand-tossed rice in houses. [133 Bank St., Burlington, 802-860-3200; aspbeebblevt.com]

Other Restaurants:

- East West Fine Bakery & Cafe, 145 S. Champlain St., Burlington, 802-860-2100; eastwestvt.com
- Joyce's House Noodle, 10 Church St., Middlebury, 802-368-1000; joycesnoodlehouse.com
- Silver Palace, 101 Elm St., Middlebury, 802-368-1000; silverpalacevt.com
- Sun Goddess, 17 High St., South Burlington, 802-860-4848; sungoddessvt.com

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

El Cortijo Taqueria Y Cantina

They tag on from the team behind the famous Tapas. Gourmet locally-inspired tacos, burritos, and entrees, along with "old and new" margaritas. Order online at elcortijo.com [800 Main St., Burlington, 802-861-1000; elcortijo.com]

Other Restaurants:

- Spice Garden, 161 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-4444; spicegardenvt.com
- The Mad Hatter, 21 Village St., Middlebury, 802-368-2227; themadhattervt.com
- Hubbard's Restaurant & Mercantile B & C, 160 West St., Burlington, 802-860-3337; hubbardsvt.com
- Hubbard's Grill & Cantina, 211 Water St., South Burlington, 802-860-1447; hubbardsvt.com

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FOOD

BEST VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT

Pho Hong

The place to go at this family-owned eatery doesn't look like a soup! Try the Happy Pancakes — crepes filled with shrimp, pork and onions (1205 W. Pleasant Ave., Burlington, 802-863-4200).

Other Restaurants:

- **Hi Cuon Vietnamese Noodle House** 320 W. Main St., Burlington, 802-863-5200 • hicuson.com
- **Pho Capital** 107 State St., Montpelier, 802-862-2100 • phocapital.com
- **Pho Gang Vietnamese Eatery** 255 Main St., Winooski, 855-255-2100 • phogangvt.com
- **Pho Gang Vietnamese Restaurant** 10 Park St., Essex Junction, 802-540-2400 • phogangvt.com



BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Trattoria Della

Aromatic, fresh grappa-tasting and mouth-warming white wine distinguishes this Italian restaurant. Try the spaghetti or sea bass (102 W. Main St., Burlington, 802-863-3323) or trattoriadella.com.

Other Restaurants:

- **Jessica Italiano** 333 S. Main St., Castleton, 802-530-0500 • jessicaitaliano.com
- **Pasta & Co.** 100 Church St., Winooski, 860-747-1174 • pastaco.com
- **Pastaia Ristorante** 32 Church St., Burlington, 802-863-0886 • pastaia.com
- **Barbucci's Restaurant and Bar** 20 Main St., Montpelier, 802-869-1880 • barbuccis.com

BEST VEGETARIAN FAIR

A Single Pebble

This authentic Chinese restaurant cooks up a great meal out. Lunch every day until 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; then it's open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. (121 Frank St., Burlington, 802-860-2880 • aspinepebble.com).

Other Restaurants:

- **City Market/Vegan Riveria** 49-825 Winooski Ave., Burlington, 802-860-0350 • veganriveria.com
- **People's Café & Bakery** 1190 Main St., Burlington, 540-871-0200 • peoplescafe.com
- **Shady and Gilly's Smoothie Shop** 211 College St., Burlington, 802-786-8800 • shadyandgillys.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Green Goddess Café

Any day is a reason to Monday at this vegetarian eatery, which serves up 200+ salads, soups, pizzas, pastas and more. 318 S. Main St., Stowe, 209-8250 • green-goddess.com

Other Cafés:

- **Klasse** 32 Main St., Manchester, 303-288-8848 • klassevt.com
- **MBT Restaurant and Lounge** 4403 Main St., Northfield, 802-554-1100 • mbtvt.com



BEST COMFORT FOOD

Our House Bistro

Orchids, chicken, pea purée and more — and change weekly — are just a few of the reasons diners flock to the Westmoreland, Vermont comfort food. Get the meal with a cup of steamed tea! (86 Main St., Winooski, 403-864-1200 • ourhousebistro.com).

Other Restaurants:

- **Elmwood Eathouse** 307 Rivermont Ave., Burlington, 403-862-1200 • elmwoodeathouse.com
- **The Farmhouse Tap & Grill** 303 Main St., Burlington, 802-862-8888 • farmhousetapandgrill.com
- **Henry Lawes** 246 Main St., Winooski, 802-259-5500 • henrylawes.com
- **Ferry Street Café** 105 Church St., Burlington, 802-864-1111 • ferrystreetcafe.com

BEST EGGS BENEDICT

Sneakers Bistro

Locals have frequented this eatery for more than 30 years. The weekend brunch with its three regional Benedicts is legendary, and the daily specials are always delicious! (20 Main St., South Burlington, 802-862-0201 • sneakersbistro.com).

Other Restaurants:

- **Kismet** 52 State St., Montpelier, 802-868-4500 • kismetmontpelier.com
- **Luncheonette & Grill** 105 Church St., Burlington, 802-370-1100 • luncheonettegrill.com
- **Hoppy's Bistro** 71 Lovers Lane, Burlington, 802-864-3444 • hoppysbistro.com
- **Frost Street Diner** 15 Frost St., Burlington, 802-862-0100 • froststreetdiner.com

BEST BREAKFAST SANDWICH

Kountry Kart Deli

Whether you're a Gleek or a Groovy, know as we do, that 21st centuries' breakfast, showing down on these groovy times is the Burlington Deli at passage! (165 Main St., Burlington, 802-448-4400 • kountrykartdeli.com).

Other Delis:

- **The Bagel Place** 1060 Williston Rd., South Burlington, 802-862-5000 • bagelplacevt.com
- **Burlington Bagel Bakery** 1001 Williston Rd., Burlington, 802-862-0200 • bagelbakeryvt.com
- **City Market/Vegan Riveria** 49-825 Winooski Ave., Burlington, 802-860-0350 • veganriveria.com
- **Fancy Nancy's Bistro** 31 Henry St., Burlington, 802-864-1200 • fancynancysbistro.com
- **Frost Street Deli** 210 Cyn St., Burlington, 802-864-1200 • froststreetdeli.com

BEST CREAMIE OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

VERMONT COOKIE LOVE

Since selling its first batch at the Shelburne Farmers Market in 2007, Vermont Cookie Love has gained a loyal following for its chewy cookies and lots of frame-worthy. While those sweeties are now available in 60 stores and markets, Route 7 travelers can pull over at the home base — the Love Shack in North Ferrisburgh — for a just-baked cookie, scoop of hand ice cream or a dense creamer made from local milk and premium ingredients. Flavors include chocolate, vanilla, maple, coffee and twist. Also on the menu are homemade drinks, softies and ice-cream cookie sandwiches made to order. All of the cbt's served at the picnic tables and wooden benches by the Love Shack walk-up window.

8076 Route 7, North Ferrisburgh, 802-862-1100 • vermontcookie.com

BEST BAGEL**Myer's Bagels**

A wood-fired oven bakes Montreal-style bagels at this small South End eatery. The items change with the season, including soups, salads, and sandwiches. (3707 Pearl St., Burlington, 863-8333 • myersbagels.com)

Other finalists

- Bagel Makab Bakery and Cafe** 22 South Wilson St., Essex Junction, 870-2544 • bagelmakab.com
- The Bagel Place** 1040 Williamson Rd., South Burlington, 471-2528 • thebagelplace.com
- Bagel Angel Bakery** 905 University St., South Burlington, 961-0224 • bagelangelbakery.com
- Feldman's Bagels** 663 Pine St., Burlington, 500-0701 • feldmansbagels.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY**The Bagel**

Twenty different bagels are made from scratch in each day at this small, fast-paced neighborhood eatery with a focus on traditional lox and cream cheese. (204 Main St., Stowe, 823-5413 • thebagelvt.com)

Other finalists

- K.C.'s Bagel Gold** 71 Church St., Suite 1, White River Junction, 218-0700 • kcsbagelgold.com
- Manzo's Bagels** 162 N. Main St., Barre, 662-8100 • manzosbagels.com
- Wang's Bagel & Deli** 1107 Ferry Rd., South Burlington, 733-4660 • wangsbagel.com

BEST CIDER DOUGHNUTS**Cold Hollow Cider Mill**

This cozy mill is a must-stop for cider enthusiasts after harvest. They also offer their doughnuts—created with cider—year-round in their city-style—among the best in the region. (3600 Main St., Winooski, 860-527-7624 • coldhollowcidermill.com)

Other finalists

- Champlain Donuts** 2207 Route 24, Middlebury, 802-377-1777 • champlaiddonuts.com
- Chittenden Cider Mill** 1000 Market St., South Burlington, 862-4502 • chittendencidermill.com
- Rocky's Donuts** 50 South St., South Burlington, 222-4848 • rockysdonuts.com
- Tam's Donuts** Farm Market, 2701 Longmeadow Rd., Colchester, 663-5446 • tamsonsdonuts.com

BEST PIZZA [RESTAURANT]**American Flatbread****Burlington Hearth**

These two elegant oven-baked local and organic ingredients are the focus here. Open days, week, and end-of-month. (American Flatbread: 201 Main St., Burlington, 860-2990 • americanflatbread.com); (Burlington Hearth: 50 South St., South Burlington, 222-4848 • burlinthearth.com)

Other finalists

- Palio's** 4305 Stetson Rd., Shelburne, 863-4412 • paliosvt.com
- Justino's Italian** 55 E. Pine St., Colchester, 863-0208 • justinositalian.com
- Pizzaria Vittoria** 605 W. Main St., Burlington, 499-5144 • pizzariavittoria.com
- Wasserman Tap House** 22 Wasserman Row, Williston, 875-1060 • wassermantaphouse.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY**Positive Pie**

All locations of this popular chain hand-tossed specialty pies are made-to-order, along with salads, soups, sandwiches, and baked goods. (281 S. Main St., Middlebury, 820-7026 • 230-5880; 21 Main St., Middlebury, 824-0233 • 270 N. Main St., Essex, 823-9124 • positivepie.com)

Other finalists

- The Blue Goose** 15 State St., Williston, 862-8765 • 5324 Main St., Waterbury, 863-7495 • bluegoosevt.com
- Pizzazzia Pizzeria & Lounge** 1079 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 253-4411 • 868-9386 • pizzazzia.com

BEST PIZZA [DELIVERY]**Leonardo's Pizza**

This pizza delivery service goes above and beyond for flavor, cheese, and toppings. Their pizzas are the thinnest crusts and have a wide variety of toppings. (101 Park St., Burlington, 860-223-0200 • 101 Park St., South Burlington, 961-9059 • leonardospizza.com)

Other finalists

- Big Dogg's Pizza** 271 Church St., Burlington, 860-223-0000 • bigdoggspizza.com
- January 7th** 101 Main St., Burlington, 862-5236 • 855 Park Dr., Colchester 863-0300 • january7th.com
- Roman's Bistro & Pizzeria** 187 Main Street, Keeler Tavern, 860-223-1000 • 101 Main St., St. Johnsbury, 865-8813 • 525 Main St., Bennington, 862-0222 • romansvt.com
- Three Brothers Pizza & Grill** 955 Remsen St., Colchester, 863-5553 • threebrothersvt.com

Positive Pie

The Montpelier-based franchise offers this price-point hand-tossed pizza to clearly differentiate itself from Positive Pie. (22 Main St., Montpelier, 863-0432 • 219 N. Main St., Barre, 863-2521 • positivepie.com)

Other finalists

- Justino's Pizza** 50 Mitchell St., Shelburne, 863-7333 • justinosvt.com
- Pizzazzia Pizzeria & Lounge** 1079 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 253-4411 • pizzazzia.com

BEST BURGER**The Farmhouse Tap & Grill**

This award-winning pub offers five local burgers with unique toppings made from ingredients such as house-dried beef, bacon-wrapped jalapeños, and pickled onions. (3601 Main St., Burlington, 863-0300 • farmhousetapandgrill.com)

Other finalists

- Andrea's Bistro** 1036 Shadeland Rd., Shelburne, 863-4912 • andreasbistro.com
- Amigo's** 400 Pine St., Burlington, 863-0406 • amigosvt.com
- Beaser's** 107 Roosevelt St., Williston, 823-8230 • beasersvt.com
- The Whipping Room** 305 North St., Burlington, 863-4700 • whippingroomvt.com

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BEST CREAMIE**Burlington Bay Market & Café**

The waterfront market in Burlington's North End offers delicious baked goods, soups, salads, and sandwiches. But you've got to try the most iconic view of Lake Champlain from the patio, perched high above the town. (205 University St., Burlington, 802-860-1691; burlingtonbaymarket.com)

Other Creamies

- **Al's Famous Frys**, 1201 University St., South Burlington, 802-860-2600; alsfrys.com
- **Palmers**, 100 Main St., South Burlington, 802-860-2705; palmerscreamery.com
- **Reddy's M.F. Patisserie & Ice Cream**, 30 Park St., Champlain Junction, 802-464-1144; reddyscreamery.com
- **Shady Grove**, 419 Main St., South Burlington, 802-862-4500; shadygrove.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY**Vermont Cookie Love**

The sweet,跳跳糖, cookie is the go-to dessert for any occasion. The company's website is a treasure trove of cookie recipes. (1002 Route 1 North, Williston, 802-861-8181; vermontcookielove.com)

Other Cookies

- **Bragg's Famous Buttercream & Gilt Dough**, 10205 Route 14, Cold Spring Harbor, 802-233-1233; braggscookies.com
- **Dairy Queen**, 330 State St., Montpelier, 802-223-2022; dqmontpelier.com
- **Heiss' Farm Maple Sugared Cookies**, 700 County Rd., Montpelier, 802-226-2140; monsternic.com

BEST HOMEMADE ICE CREAM**Lake Champlain Chocolates**

The company's signature truffles are something for everyone. Chocolates & truffles (chocolates, cake, a factory tour or private truffles) make perfect birthday presents for everyone. (750 River St., Burlington, 802-860-8515; 85 Church St., Burlington, 802-865-5268; lakelakechocolates.com)

Other Chocolates

- **Hans of the Woods**, 133 Cherry St., Burlington, 802-863-8735; 807 Main St., Waterbury, 802-775-0000; hansofthewoods.com
- **Sousat & Sons**, 200 South Ave., Burlington, 802-860-1111; sousatandsons.com
- **Sugary Delights**, 273 St. Paul St., Burlington, 802-861-0442; sugarydelights.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY**Island Homemade Ice Cream**

Island Homemade Ice Cream is a family-owned, organic, dairy-free ice cream shop in French Valley with a focus on natural, organic, and raw ingredients, including Vermont maple, bacon, and veggie sodas. (214 W. Main St., Grand Isle, 802-228-1000; islandhomemadeicecream.com)

Other Ice Creams

- **Off-Grid Vermont Creamery**, 31 State St., Montpelier, 802-223-4426; off-gridvermontcreamery.com
- **Island T. Molen St. Retreat**, 804-848-4313; islandtretreat.com
- **Stonewall Kitchen**, 802 Bridge St., Waterbury, 802-229-0000; stonewallkitchen.com

**BEST FROZEN YOGURT****So Yo Frozen Yogurt**

The small-batch frozen yogurt from this Burlington-based local ingredients. There are more than 20 toppings, including local barns in Vermont and more. (307 Southgate St., Burlington, 802-860-9981; 100 Main St., Waterbury, 802-223-0024; 344 Rutland St., Rutland, 802-773-3211; 200 Southgate St., St. Albans, 802-862-7400; s oyoyogurt.com)

Other Frozen Yogurts

- **Bruegger's**, 101 Main St., Burlington, 802-860-2200; brueggers.com
- **Regent City**, 101 Main St., Waterbury, 802-223-1251; 83 Main St., Waterbury, 802-223-0024; 344 Rutland St., Rutland, 802-773-3211; 200 Southgate St., St. Albans, 802-862-7400; regentcityyogurt.com



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BEST VERMONT CHEESE BRAND**Cabot Creamery**

The specific cheesemaking has changed in just one century since its Cheesemaking Center. Others prefer the Brie and Camembert cheeses, including Buffalo and Jersey. Rustic blues are more popular. (1000 Main St., Cabot, 802-878-4054; 2062 Route 100, Waterbury Center, 802-824-0204; 144 Main St., Waterbury, 802-860-4100; cabotcheese.com)

Other Cheeses

- **Green Mountain Cheese**, 480 Lark St., Burlington, 802-860-0880; greenmountaincheese.com
- **Jaeger Hill Farm**, 814 Gorham Hill Rd., Waterbury, 802-865-2323; jaegerhillfarm.com
- **Shelburne Farms**, 101 Heister St., Shelburne, 802-865-6565; shelburnefarms.org
- **Vermont Creamery**, 201 Powers Rd., Waterbury, 802-862-7700; vermontcreamery.com

BEST FOOD/DRINK EVENT**Arts & Truck Stop (Burlington)**

The hip, artsy truck trend is finally realized in Burlington. Get Malaysian street food at a former barbershop, wood-fired pizzas at a former barbershop — all in the same building. (4200 Main St., Burlington, 802-248-8000; artsandtruckstop.com)

Other Events

- **Burlington Farmers Market**, City Hall Park, Burlington, burlingtonfarmersmarket.org
- **Burlington Wine & Food Festival**, Waterfront Park, Burlington, burlingtonwineandfoodfestival.com
- **East of the River**, Congress Park, Burlington, 802-867-1100; eastoftheriver.com
- **Heavenly Brewfest**, Arrowhead Park, Burlington, heavenlybrewfest.com
- **Vermonter Restaurant Week**, Shelburne, 802-865-1000; vermonterrestaurantweek.com

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DRINK



* = New category in 2016

BEST CRAFT BREWERY

Hill Farmstead Brewery
Rinne Farmhouse Ales, 100% in a brewery (the first, in the nation!) The rustic spot has garnered international following. 2016's growth has paid a toll on the retail taproom—but their three-taproom brewery is now open 24/7. 1402 Main St., Woodstock, Vermont 05079 • hillfarmstead.com

Gilt Edge

- Hill Farmstead Brewery**, 1402 Main St., Woodstock, Vermont 05079 • hillfarmstead.com
- Flourish Ciderhouse**, 100% in a brewery (the first, in the nation!) The rustic spot has garnered international following. 2016's growth has paid a toll on the retail taproom—but their three-taproom brewery is now open 24/7. 1402 Main St., Woodstock, Vermont 05079 • hillfarmstead.com
- Switchback Brewing Co.**, 1402 Main St., Woodstock, Vermont 05079 • switchbackvt.com
- Zero Gravity Craft Brewing**, 700 River Rd., Burlington, Vermont 05403 • zerogavityvt.com

BEST WINERY

Shelburne Vineyard
Vermonters Ken Killeen is pioneering new techniques with his vineyard's vines at grapes, both in the vineyard and in the cellar. Sample a few such as the 2015 Chardonnay White, or the 2015 vintage rosé. 3608 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, Vermont 05482 • shelburnevineyard.com

Gilt Edge

- Shelburne Vineyard**, 3608 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, Vermont 05482 • shelburnevineyard.com
- Lyndon Valley Winery & Spirits**, 84 Route 104, Lyndonville, Vermont 05452 • lyndonvalley.com
- East Side Winery**, 700 River Rd., Woodstock, Vermont 05079 • eastsidewinery.com
- Lyndonville Vineyard**, 1402 River Rd., Woodstock, Vermont 05079 • lyndonvillevineyard.com
- Seven Farms Vineyard**, 7000 River Rd., South Burlington, Vermont 05403 • sevenfarmsvt.com

BEST CIDER (NONALCOHOLIC)

Cold Hollow Cider Mill
This Waterbury institution is a must-visit. Reason 100: It's one of the Dayton farmstand cider stalwarts. Reason 101: It's a sample-a-taste, sit-down at the Apple-Corn Cucurbiture and watch the action on the 100-ft. screen. 18600 Route 100, Waterbury Center, Vermont 05677 • coldhollowcidermill.com

Gilt Edge

- Cold Hollow Cider Mill**, 18600 Route 100, Waterbury Center, Vermont 05677 • coldhollowcidermill.com
- Orchardside Cider**, 100% in a brewery (the first, in the nation!) The rustic spot has garnered international following. 2016's growth has paid a toll on the retail taproom—but their three-taproom brewery is now open 24/7. 1402 Main St., Woodstock, Vermont 05079 • orchardsidecider.com
- Golds' Cider**, 100% in a brewery (the first, in the nation!) The rustic spot has garnered international following. 2016's growth has paid a toll on the retail taproom—but their three-taproom brewery is now open 24/7. 1402 Main St., Woodstock, Vermont 05079 • golds-cider.com

BEST BAR (OVERALL)

MULE BAR

There's a reason Mule Bar deems itself "Whiskey craft beer cocktail post." Mounted behind the wine-and-beer bar, 16 tap handles allow access to one of the best-curated draft lists around. The ever-changing roster of casked brown ales goes hand-in-hand with German pilsners to revere Vermont favorites, such as Lawson's Finest Liquids. Perfectly timed for something besides beer to award winning cocktails featuring house-made sodas, tonics, and shrubs. Mule Bar's Matt Perkins was named 2016's Bartender of the Year in a Vermont Tourism Summer competition last spring. Paid with that drink? The bar menu—featuring charcuterie boards, burgers, hand-cut fries, an all-day breakfast "smashwich," and the house-cured pork belly Cuban—will satisfy any comfort-food craving. (The name Mule Bar is the favored hitchin' post if Seven Days readers

38 Main St., Winooski, Vermont 05491 • mulebarvt.com





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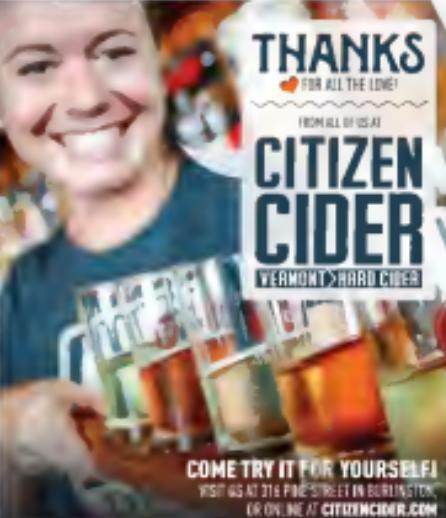
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\$5 Wine Night
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DRINK

BEST HARD CIDER

Citizen Cider

Owned by Citizen Cider's Brady Landry a team for its signature Litchfield Press is now dry-hopped Litchfield Hopper. Stop by the Market Bar in Middlebury, or home with a growler. 3365 River St., Suite 114, Burlington, 802.867.1000 | citizencider.com

Cider Donuts

- Champlain Donuts: 3307 Route 34, Shelburne, 802.865.1277 | champlandonuts.com
- Shackelberry: 33402 Route 104, Shelburne, 802.865.0525 | shackelberry.com
- Sequoia Cider: 1099 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 802.253.5555 | sequoiacider.com
- Whistlepig Hard Cider: 2207 Exchange St., Middlebury 802.383.8510 | whistlepigcider.com

BEST SPIRITS DISTILLER

Caledonia Spirits

It's unlikely that a tiny Vermont distillery situated behind a log yard in Hardwick, would produce one of the world's top rated gins, right? Wrong. At Caledonia Spirits, that gin is based in honey — seemingly even more unlikely at a time when honeybees are perishing in unprecedented numbers. And, as the art of barrel-making fades into history, the distillery has found a nearby artisan to craft its barrels, using our Vermont white oak. Caledonia Spirits accomplishes all of these unlikely things to craft bartender favorites such as Barn Hill gin and vodka, along with the sweet, amber-hued Torn Hill Reserve gin (and a forthcoming aged whiskey). Tasting them is a tasting.

45 Log Yard Dr., Hardwick, 802.863.3333 | caledoniaspirits.com

BEST DRAFT BEER LIST

The Farmhouse Tap & Grill

The taproom-painted red seasonal outdoor beer list at this craft-spot-greatplace is—without question—the best in the state. The 100+ beers—offer a taste of rare and curated brews from Vermont and beyond. (248 Main St., Burlington, 802/865-1666 • farmhousetapvt.com)

Other Taprooms

• The Archetype 101 College St., Burlington, 802/863-0000 • thearchetypevt.com

• Mountain Plaza & Pub 105 Main St., Burlington, 802/865-4474 • mountainplazaandpub.com

• Healdsworth 18 Brattleboro Rd., Colchester, 877/277-1000 • 101 Langdon St., Montpelier, 802/223-1000 • 101 Vermont St., Montpelier, 802/223-1000 • healdsworthvt.com

• Muir Bar 330 Main St., Winooski, 309/269-1600 • muirbarvt.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Prohibition Pig

One of the largest craft-beer selections in New England is in the arms of this popular Waterbury pigpub. What better way to wash down the blues this frost? (233 Main St., Waterbury, 802/442-3838 • prohibitionpigvt.com)

Other Taprooms

• Der Pilsner 20 Killington Rd., Stowe, 802/865-8100 • derpilsnervt.com

• The Reserve Restaurant & Tap Room 13 Main St., Waterbury, 844/863-1000 • thereservetaproomvt.com

• Newbury Tap 100 Main St., Montpelier, 824/427-1100 • newburytaptavern.com

BEST BREW PUB

Prohibition Pig

Get the "finest barbecue cuts of the day" in the eat-in, or head back to the outdoor deck for some smoking and tasting. Owners of iconic New England barbecue house from Boston to DC (3 L. L. Bean St., Waterbury, 844/442-1000 • prohibitionpigvt.com)

Other Brewpubs

• Hilltop Beer Brewing Co. 130 N. Main St., Stowe, 802/256-1000 • hilltopbeervt.com

• Lure Distillery Brewing 105 Old Cemetery Rd., Morrisville, 802/865-1000 • luredistillerybrewing.com

• Vermont Pub & Brewery 104 College St., Burlington, 802/860-0000 • vermontpubandbrewery.com

• Zee's Brew & Craft Brewery 110 Main St., Putney, 802/325-7100 • zeesbrewandcraft.com

BEST WINE LIST

Hen of the Wood

Popular Johnna's (labeled) hen-of-the-woods and Morel Thursday just got the beginning of this popular food-and-wine establishment's 20th anniversary. Owners have added Michael's (labeled) (200 beers and more than a dozen vintages by the glass), (24 Cherry St., Burlington, 802/863-9210 • henofthewoodvt.com)

Other Restaurants

• Loring's Bistro & Caffè 700 Church St., Burlington, 802/863-1730 • loringsbistrovt.com

• Oakley's 45 Main St., Winooski, 446/3740 • oakleysvt.com

• Tuckerman's Bistro 162 St. Paul St., Burlington, 802/863-1000 • tuckermansvt.com

• Muir Bar & Bistro 130 College St., Burlington, 802/263-1000 • muirbarvt.com

BEST WINE SHOP

Cheese & Wine Traders

A multiple bay-windowed shop packed with more than 1,500 quality wines, dozens of cheeses and innumerable "secondaries" of various foods at discount prices in a South Burlington institution. (1017 Williston Rd., South Burlington, 802/863-4100 • cheesewinevt.com)

Other Boutiques

- Dark Horse Wine & Market 1 Street St., Waterbury, 802/862-2229 • 35 School St., Stowe, 802/865-3000 • darkhorsevt.com
- Bunkers Wine & Spirits 100 Main St., Burlington, 802/860-3300 • bunkersvt.com
- Village Wines and Cheese 5388 7th St., South Burlington, 802/862-9100 • villagewinesandcheese.com
- Muir Bar & Bistro 130 College St., Burlington, 802/263-1000 • muirbarvt.com

BEST CRAFT BREW SELECTION (RETAILER)

Beverage Warehouse

Vermonter's largest craft-beer wine-and-spirits store goes above and beyond to keep up to 10,000-plus microbrews from all over the world on demand when delivered. There's a greater beer tool (319 St., Winooski, 802/863-2620 • beveragewarehousevt.com)

Other Boutiques

- City Market/Under River Garage 101 S. Winooski Ave., Burlington, 802/863-0200 • citymarketvt.com
- Craft Beer Station 3 Elm St., Waterbury, 802/865-1000 • craftbeerstationvt.com
- Healthy Living Market & Cafe 222 South St., South Burlington, 802/229-2000 • healthylivingmarketvt.com

BEST PICKUP BAR

Red Square

They say the best things come in small packages, and this tiny bar in a historic 1800s mill in the center of Middlebury, Vermont, is a hidden gem. It's a great place to sit and have a beer while sipping on some excellent cocktails. (20 South Main St., Middlebury, 802/338-4000 • redsquarevt.com)

Other Boutiques

- The Archetype 101 College St., Burlington, 802/863-0000 • thearchetypevt.com
- Newark's 101 Main St., Burlington, 802/863-4771 • newarksvt.com
- Three Hops Ale Brewery & Taproom 113 Pearl St., Burlington, 802/863-0000 • threehopsvt.com

BEST CIVIC BAR

The Other Place

The head-waitress of this friendly neighborhood bar is a legend: She's been there since 1974. Reasons to visit: It's a people's place—so go ignore everyone and watch a game instead. Shaken served until late. (14 N. Winooski Ave., Suite 1, Burlington, 802/863-0000 • theotherplacevt.com)

Other Boutiques

- Charlie-Q's 919 Main St., Winooski, 802/863-0000 • charlieqsvt.com
- Lure Distillery Brewing 105 Old Cemetery Rd., Morrisville, 802/865-1000 • luredistillerybrewing.com
- J.P.'s Pub 105 Main St., Burlington, 802/863-1000 • jpssvt.com
- The Old Northeastern Pub 21 Berlin St., Burlington, 802/863-1000 • oldnortheasternvt.com

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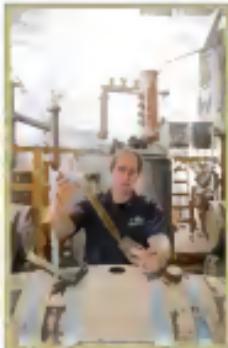
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BEST SPORTS BAR

McGillivray's

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Other Barbers:

- **Ant's Place**, 194 Main St., Burlington, 802-863-1100 - Facebook
- **Burton's Beer Wings**, 555 Shelburne Rd., Burlington, 406-447-0000 - Facebook
- **Church Street Theatre**, 300 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1200 - churchstreetvt.com
- **Robes' Jams**, 159 Main St., Burlington, 802-864-3494 - robesjams.com

BEST PLACE TO DRINK ALONE

The Daily Planet

If you're looking for a place why not come with? It's a great place to sit down and have a beer. It's also welcoming to friends. Don't count your troubles with a pint of beer. It's a great place for a conversation and a few laughs. **Blond Trinity**, 101 Center St., Burlington, 802-860-1144 - blondtrinityvt.com

Other Barbers:

- **The Other Place**, 416 Mississipi St., Suite 1, Burlington, 802-540-1100 - Facebook
- **Bar 101**, 101 Mississipi St., Burlington, 802-934-8100 - facebook.com
- **Three Heads Brewery & Taproom**, 180 Pearl St., Burlington - Facebook
- **Monello's Crafty Club**, 101 Main St., Burlington, 802-860-2000 - monellosvt.com

REST BAR (OVERALL)

Mule Bar

Many years ago at "Mulebar's" craft beer. Mulebar's porch and patio is a great place. Their outdoor patio has a thoroughly curated tap list. 18 beers long, original microbrews, and house made soaps, towels and blankets. What more do you want? 129 Main St., Willimpton, 802-360-1100 - mulebarvt.com

Other Barbers:

- **The Arkells**, 101 College St., Burlington, 802-863-2222 - thearkellsvt.com
- **Ant's Place**, 194 Main St., Burlington, 802-863-1100 - Facebook
- **McGillivray's**, 129 Main St., Burlington, 802-860-1161 - mcgillivrayssportshouse.com
- **Robes' Jams**, 159 Main St., Burlington, 802-864-3494 - robesjams.com
- **Three Heads Brewery & Taproom**, 180 Pearl St., Burlington - facebook.com

BEST BOUNCERS

Higher Ground

This is a very high quality bar. Located in Burlington, it's a continuous stream of locals and tourists to the larger Burlington and smaller Willimpton. Lounge. Good to know there are superlative bouncers to handle the crowds and players. **Willimpton Bar & Taproom**, 101 Main St., Willimpton, 802-337-7499 - highergroundvt.com

Other Barbers:

- **Church Street Theatre**, Burlington, 802-863-1100 - churchstreetvt.com
- **Church Street Taproom**, 101 Main St., Burlington, 802-863-1100 - churchstreetvt.com
- **Bar Square**, 126 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1100 - Facebook
- **Three Heads Brewery & Taproom**, 180 Pearl St., Burlington - Facebook

BEST BARTENDER

Chris Maloney (Head of Wood, Burlington)

This bartender has a great touch whenever he goes. Superb drizzling. La henri the wood train. The first Blasted Sheep! The most popular — is Santa Michael's College great — and become known for his no-nonsense classic cocktails for the bartender position. **101 Church St.**, Burlington, 802-863-0104 - theadwoodtrain.com

Other Barbers:

- **Justin Barnes**, **(The Arkells)**, 101 College St., Burlington, 802-863-1100 - thearkellsvt.com
- **Mike Sauer**, **(Higher Ground)**, 101 Main St., Willimpton, 802-337-7499 - highergroundvt.com
- **Peyton White** (**Vermont Comedy Club**), 101 Main St., Burlington, 802-860-0800 - vermontcomedyclub.com
- **Sammy Payne** (**McDonald's Irish Ale House** **Winooski**), 101 Winooski St., Winooski, 802-549-4700 - Facebook

BEST GAY-FRIENDLY BAR

On45

This place couldn't care less about the inhuman traffic laws that have long commercial tables, comfy booths and elegant cocktails. The tables are set to the bar, the bar is set to the tables and everybody part of the apparel. **111 Main St.**, Willimpton, 802-337-0000 - on45vt.com

Other Barbers:

- **Orbit**, 126 Church St., Burlington, 802-863-1100 - orbitvt.com
- **Higher Ground**, 101 Main St., Burlington, 802-863-1100 - highergroundvt.com
- **Bar Square**, 126 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1100 - Facebook
- **Three Heads Brewery & Taproom**, 180 Pearl St., Burlington - Facebook

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SEVEN DAYSTIES 2016/17

22



BEST COFFEE SHOP & BEST BARISTA

UNCOMMON GROUNDS COFFEE AND TEA & ROB MAYNARD

Just across the Church Street Marketplace from Starbucks, family-owned Uncommon Grounds has cozy wooden floors, patterned tile back-splashes and local art on the walls. Treats such as vegan pastries, buttery biscuits, cookies and biscuits sit in glass bakery cases. Barista bags of coffee beans, sourced from all over the world, are stacked against the walls, waiting to roast in the huge Probat L12 by the door. It's little surprise that, after more than two decades in business, the spot is still winning over the hearts and minds of the coffee-drinking public. It doesn't hurt that head barista Rob Maynard is behind the counter, appreciated by local coffee aficionados for his passion and perfect cups.

42 Church St., Burlington 865-5221 | ugvansent.com



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BEST BLOODY MARY

Sneakers Bistro

The weekend brunch—with its signature Bloody Mary—is legendary and the only specks are always clear. Go early to beat the crowds, 129 Main St., Williston, 802-860-1100; sneakersbistrovt.com

Other finalists

- American Standard Burlington/Winooski 105 S. Pearl St., Williston, 802-863-2999; americanstandardvt.com
- Loungz & Shake's Café 83 Church St., Burlington, 802-863-2200; loungzvt.com
- Magnolia Bistro 117 Main St., Williston, 802-865-7446; magnolia-bistro.com
- Perry's Diner Cafe 1635 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-2222; perrysdinervt.com
- Rocky Roads 705 Main St., Shelburne, 802-985-4577; rockyroadsvt.com

BEST COCKTAILS

Waterworks

Food + Drink

This giddyup spot on the edge of the roaring Winooski River has a plenty of seats at the bar. Sipper's favorites include: like the classic Margarita, or a libidinous Devil's Kiss, or the Pisco Sour. You never know if it's 200 Proof Pisco Vodka, White Moscato, 100% vodka, or waterworks.com

Other finalists

- Church & Main 108 Church St., Burlington, 802-864-0000; churchandmainvt.com
- The Bally Flair 15 Center St., Burlington, 802-588-7100; ballyflairvt.com
- House of Wind 83 Church St., Burlington, 802-863-0400; 107 Main St., Williston, 802-863-0400; houseofwindvt.com
- Jumpin' 41 Church St., Burlington, 802-862-7600; jumpinvt.com

BEST SMOOTHIES/JUICES

Tomgirl Juice Co.

At this sunny juice bar juicery, get raw, organic, seasonal juices—whole carrots, beet juice, and more. You can also add a protein or fat granola pack, or a healthy granola parfait. 100% juice. 100% healthy. 100% Tomgirl. 100% TomgirlJuiceCo.com

Other finalists

- Bar-Bear + Juice 108 Pearl St., Burlington, 802-863-4500; barbearandjuice.com
- Juicebox 194 College St., Burlington, 802-863-1333; juiceboxvt.com
- Healthy Smoothie 101 Main St., Burlington, 802-860-1000; healthysmoothievt.com
- The Beverage Juice Company 31 Main St., Burlington, 802-860-4700; tbeverage.com

BEST BARTENDER

BEST TEA-HOUSE

Dobri Tea

Ring shell and you choose of more than 50 varieties of stems, scented, fruit, herbal, green, and more. All served according to traditional Eastern European methods. Hand selected by the teaology experts on private label teas. 105 Church St., Burlington, 802-864-2404; dobritea.com

Other finalists

- Healthy Waters 105 Main St., Burlington, 802-863-1100; healthywatersvt.com
- The Herby Leaf 105 Main St., Burlington, 802-863-1100; theherbyleafvt.com
- Sassafras Tea House 41 Main St., Williston, 802-865-2100; sassafras-teahouse.com
- Tulsi Tea Room 24 Church St., Montpelier, 802-434-1430; tulsi-tearoom.com

BEST COFFEE SHOP

Uncommon Grounds Coffee and Tea

The in-house roasting, specialty service and seasonal offerings make this a must-visit. 105 Main St., Williston, 802-863-1100; uncommongroundsvt.com

Other finalists

- Magnolia 47 Main St., Burlington, 802-863-2200; magnolia-bistro.com
- Healthy Waters 105 Main St., Burlington, 802-863-1100; healthywatersvt.com
- Spoon & Fork 237 North St., Williston, 802-863-1700; spoonandforkvt.com
- Spoon & Fork Coffee 419 Main St., Burlington, 802-869-1941; spoonandforkvt.com
- Spoon & Fork Coffee 419 Main St., Burlington, 802-869-1941; spoonandforkvt.com

BEST COFFEE ROASTER

Vermont Coffee Company

all the beans from the Hill Country roaster are organic, fair-trade, and shade-grown. The beans are in the coffee—so you get a honest, bold, earthy, or tangy taste. As a roaster, we roast the beans. 101 Exchange St., Suite 3, Montpelier, 802-229-1000; vermontcoffee.com

Other finalists

- Bar + Kitchenette 108 Pearl St., Burlington, 802-863-1100; barandkitchenette.com
- Killing Jones Mountain 111 Union St., Montpelier, 802-223-2000; killingjonesmt.com
- Spoon & Fork Coffee 419 Main St., Burlington, 802-869-1941; spoonandforkvt.com
- Bar + Kitchenette 108 Pearl St., Burlington, 802-863-1100; barandkitchenette.com
- Baconberry Kitchenette and Bar 101 Church St., Burlington, 802-863-0700; baconberry.com

BEST BARTENDER

Rob Maynard (Uncommon Grounds Coffee and Tea)

Maynard serves high quality, responsibly grown beans right in the heart of his Chappaqua advertising coffee shop. His menu is full of options (Moka for makers, the perfect pour, 100% Church St., Burlington, 802-863-1100; robtomaynard.com)

Other finalists

- Kobe House (Magellan's) 47 Main St., Burlington, 802-863-1100; magellansvt.com
- Tuckerman's (Spoon & Fork) 237 North St., Williston, 802-863-1700; tuckermansvt.com
- Spoon & Fork 419 Main St., Burlington, 802-869-1941; spoonandforkvt.com

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BEST BEER GEEK ENABLER



Meg Schultz

Age: 38

Occupation: eventer, Meg's Events

Home town: Stowe

One afternoon, many winters ago, Meg Schultz sat at the bar at Mud River Glen, enjoying an ales-and-ales with Lawrence "Liquor" brewer Sean Lawton. "We should plan our own beer 5K!" Schultz recalls one of them saying. The following September, the event planner — a social butterfly and beer lover who had previously focused more on private events and weddings — cooked up a home-grown little brew fest in the back area of Feyston's cooperative, silken-only snowmaking mountain, dubbed 5K Beerfest. The event was small, but Schultz had recruited some of Vermont's finest brewers to participate, and the result was great, the wine good, the setting beautiful. This fall will be the event's eighth season and, in the interim years, Schultz has forged further into festival territory — to the delight

Grometown Hero

Regular watering hole:
I'm in Stowe, I've been really enjoying Mud River Glen and the Primitivo Pizzeria in Waterfield. The Mud Tap — that place is like a dream vacation. It just suits you right in.

Unexpectedly great new brewery:
I'm digging Foam Root and Upper Pass right now. There are a lot I haven't had yet, but I had the chance to try one, too!

HANNAH PALMER EGAN

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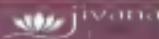
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DRINK



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Want the thing about Vermeeters: They know what they like. Specifically maple syrup. Suburbans, and the winners in the arts and entertainment section of the Gayseis. (The vast majority of these finalists — for best music venue, movie theater, museum and more — are perennial favorites. All we can say to them is: keep up the good work! You guys rock, and in some cases, roll.)

Still, we've Gayseis-chinned some deserving new winners this year, especially in the musician categories. (Look for a changing of the guard in best vocalist.) And, since the visual arts are alive and well here, we welcomed best painter, best sculptor and best photographic prints this fall.

See any winners you're not familiar with? Do yourself a favor and let them entertain you.



BEST LOCAL
THEATER COMPANY

LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY

It's hard to argue with a community theater that helps shape the lions of Shania Twain described by the New York Times as "a great theatrical force around whom others cluster like flies to a magnet." Since its first production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* in 1983, Lyric has grown into one of the largest community theater groups in the United States, producing two class act musicals per year — usually to sold-out audiences. Lyric has something for every generation, making the company a central fixture of the Arlington arts community.

55 Loney Rd., Arlington, 650-1484 • lyrictheat.org



16/17 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Ben Folds

Renée Harris
Pennacost

Art Garfunkel

Esperanza Spalding:
EMILY'S D+EVOLVED

Marc Maron

The Capitol Steps

The Triplets of Belleville
with live music
by Le Terrible Orchestre
de Belleville

Broadway National Tour
Revd

Broadway National Tour
Accin

Vienna Boys Chor

Cirque Mether Africa

MOMIX: Open Circuit

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The Chieftains

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AT THE FLYNN





ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BEST LARGE LIVE MUSIC VENUE

Waterfront Park

Whenver music or white tents spring up in this waterfront space—the Burlington Waterfront Jazz Festival, Lake Champlain Music Festival or Burlington Roots—you can rest assured the music will be good. (310 Main St., Burlington, 802-860-3367; www.burlington.com)

Other favorites:

- **Champlain Music Experience**, 105 Franklin St., Essex Junction, 802-864-1400; cmevt.org
- **Flynn Center for the Performing Arts**, 153 Main St., Burlington, 802-860-2000; flynnvt.org
- **Higher Ground**, 1024 Williston Rd., South Burlington, 802-862-1070; highergroundvt.com
- **Shambala Music**, 6003 S. Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 802-934-3676; shambalamusic.org

BEST SMALL LIVE MUSIC HOT SPOT

Nectar's

Want nightclubs? Nectar's is the place. That place has...800 live music shows in its 20-year history. Seven nights a week from local repertoires and national acts to 80-plus bands from around the world, Nectar's is a happening spot. (130 Main St., Burlington, 802-862-4370; nectarsvt.com)

Other favorites:

- **Auditorium**, 400 Pine St., Burlington, 840-0405
- **Barley House**, 100 Main St., Winooski, 802-455-3001; barleyhousevt.com
- **Radio Bar**, 214 W. Main St., Burlington, 802-860-1100; radiobarvt.com
- **Signal Kitchen**, 17 Main St., Burlington, 800-232-1140; signalvt.com

BEST PLACE TO PLAY POOL

Three Needs Brewery & Taproom

Admittedly, pre-fermentation brews, beerline draft, kegs, and a craft-brewery offering just looks and smells like a typical local brewhouse (385 Pleasant St., Burlington, 802-862-8781; threeneedsvt.com).

Other favorites:

- **Quarry's**, 100 Waterfront, 100 Main St., Montpelier, 802-229-6820
- **Heady Topper**, 300 Main St., Winooski, 802-455-1001; heedytopper.com
- **Nectar's**, 130 Main St., Burlington, 802-862-4370; nectarsvt.com
- **Phat Fish's**, 188 Church St., Burlington, 802-862-1400; phatfishvt.com



BEST PLACE TO DANCE

CLUB METRONOME

Did you know that, until fairly recently, it was illegal to dance in a Burlington bar or club while holding a drink? Fortunately, that comically prodded blue law has been discarded from the books. Not that it ever put much of a damper on the aforesaid business at Club Metronome. Thanks to long-running residencies such as the weekly 1380s dance party Fontanone and regularly hosting electronic dance music DJs of local, national and international renown, the dance floor above iconic Burlington club Nectar's is always packed—and well lubricated.

110 Main St., Burlington, 802-471-2121; clubmetronome.com

BEST PLACE TO DANCE

Club Metronome

Since the 1970s, there's been the place to show your stuff, especially at the enduring Resonance night on Saturdays. Tossing and local live acts perform during the week. (310 Main St., Burlington, 802-471-2121; clubmetronome.com)

Other favorites:

- **Halfway Station**, 1318 1/2 Church St., Burlington, 802-861-1160; halfwayvt.com
- **Higher Ground**, 1024 Williston Rd., South Burlington, 802-862-1070; highergroundvt.com
- **Music 2's**, 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-471-1100; music2vt.com
- **East Square**, 130 Church St., Burlington, 802-862-1160; eastsquarevt.com

BEST TRIVIA NIGHT

Nectar's

Show off all you've learned on Thursdays for trivia. Nectar's, which often obscures questions in pop culture, history, science and literature with wordless grocery lists, (130 Main St., Burlington, 802-862-4370; nectarsvt.com)

Other favorites:

- **Archie's**, 400 Pine St., Burlington, 840-0405; archiesvt.com
- **Motor Works**, 417 Church St., Burlington, 802-862-1100; motorworksvt.com
- **Gas Tap Bar & Grill**, 4 Park St., Essex Junction, 802-862-3300; gastapvt.com
- **Waterworks Farm & Grill**, 20 Waterford Falls, Winooski, 802-862-1160; waterworksvt.com

BEST KARAOKE

JP's Pub

110 Main St., Burlington, 802-862-4747; jpspubvt.com Stand in line three nights a week. Can't wait? Head over to the pool and foosball tables and, of course, the bar. (110 Main St., Burlington, 802-862-4747; jpspubvt.com)

Other favorites:

- **Ballagee Pub**, 400 Pine St., Essex Junction, 802-549-1444; ballagee.com
- **MANHATTAN PIZZA & PUB**, 167 Main St., Burlington, 802-862-4706; manhattanvt.com
- **Bukon Jester**, 103 Main St., Burlington, 802-862-1100; bukonjester.com
- **John's Club**, 9 Division Ave., Burlington, 802-862-1177; johnsclubvt.com



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ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

BEST STANDUP COMIC

Josie Leavitt

That very funny lady is almost single-handedly responsible for launching a stand-up comedy scene in New York. She consistently performs with the New York Comedy Club and has numerous showcases coming through regular classes at Hypnotists. (joseileavitt.com/comedy.html)

Other finalists

- Amyna Webb: [Facebook](http://amynewebb.com)
- Kristen French: [Facebook](http://facebook.com/kristenfrench)
- Maggie Iacono: [Facebook](http://facebook.com/maggieiacono)
- Richard Egan: [Facebook](http://facebook.com/richardegan)

BEST VOCALIST

Kat Wright

Her relentless, ferocious audacity and that throaty voice... it's no wonder this multi-talented, multi-cultured local audience loves her. Listen to her biggest success with the release of her upcoming debut album. (katwrightmusic.com)

Other finalists

- Francesca Blanchard: [Facebook](http://francescablanchard.com)
- Amylou: [Facebook](http://amylo.com)
- Myra Dill: [Facebook](http://myradill.com)
- Nelsa Hansen: [Facebook](http://nelsahansen.com)

BEST INSTRUMENTALIST

Seth Yacovone

Music requires know-thine-well. Yacovone covers the Friday-night blues hour, but for a more intimate, more personal show, check out his monthly power-lit series — or listen to his deep gravellyitone or prolific songwriting. (sethys.com)

Other finalists

- Brian Rupp: [Facebook](http://brianrupp.com)
- Jason Pounds: [Facebook](http://facebook.com/jasonpounds.com)
- Paul Kauflin: [Facebook](http://paulkauflin.com)

BEST AMERICANA ARTIST OR GROUP

Starline Rhythm Boys

The newest rockabilly-troupe have been honky-tonkin' around since 1984 and are one of the most popular acts in the region. Catch them at festivals, Bluegrass fests, Sevenilles and negotiations around the state. (starlinerhythmboys.com)

Other finalists

- Brett Hagler: [Facebook](http://brett-hagler.com)
- Rob Seagull: [Facebook](http://robsseagull.com)
- Josh Paquin and the Blue Diamond: [Facebook](http://facebook.com/joshpaquinandthebluediamond)
- Waylon Speed: [Facebook](http://waylonspeed.com)

SMALL-TOWN ARTS IMPRESARIO



Douglas Anderson

Age: 63

Occupation: Executive director, Town Hall Theater

Residence: West Middlebury

Despite "Doug Anderson" and your first thoughts, he's an American gospel singer at a New England rugby player and a Scotland wildlife photographer. Among other things, he's the man behind Douglas Anderson, executive director of Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. Though, as he points out, the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Florida comes with a closer — conceptually, anyway.

Turned-in an actor and theater director, Ohio-born Anderson — an East Middlebury resident since 1983 — doesn't just head up THE-ha-ha-the reason the theater venue exists. "I first walked into the building in 1997 and found out it had been a theater," he recalls. "I said, 'Well, that's it! I have to do something with that!'"

The 100-plus-hour task taken on by Douglas Anderson has taken him into disarray. But Anderson says the only problem is... not just for a theater but for the community. When it comes to the

vitality and economy of downtown, he says, "You open a theater and things improve."

The restoration took 10 years and a number of creative, humorously-themed fund raisers that yielded some \$6 million. THT opened officially in 2008 and now hosts 150 events per year.

But from the beginning, Anderson says, he had a vision of making the performance space even more accessible. First in the theater. He founded the Opera Company of Middlebury in 2004. He's directed shows for the Middlebury Actor Workshop and college theater he recently directed. James and the Last Peach, through THT's educational programs. Last year, he says, he'll never win an artistic director title as the board salaries a new ED.

That said, he thinks about finding "a real small town" — it's very gratifying, in a small town! — "to very gratifying, in a small town!"

Verbatim: "Performers: more people should know... I run the theater, the most interesting musical theater performer I've ever had the pleasure

to work with. I'd cast her yearly, monthly, weekly if I had the chance."

Best place to dive before catching a show at THT: *Bar 100, Sebas Seton* [Anderson] that has just next door to the theater, and *Two Broads*, Tavern [our performers' favorite after-show gathering place]

Off-the-beaten-track place to eat a great dinner: *Great Bands*, great wine and a great view at the *Lucia-Peek Vineyard* [concert series] in New Haven

PAMELA POLSTON



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SHOPPING

In our opinion, the biggest win of the Daysies is the fact that locally owned shops try and large out-of-towners compete. Let's hear it for the little guy or gal! Not so little anymore, eh?

He's still being loyal to local. Seven Days voters tend to be loyal to the same shops year after year. But the votes are often really close, with several strong contenders in many categories and this year saw some new winners rise to the top. ECCO stole the Daysies away from long-time favorite Sweet Lady Jane in the always-competitive category of best women's casual clothing (inside Chittenden County). Flannel's Closet scored its inaugural win for best secondhand clothing. Northern Lights did the same for best place to buy a pipe. And Church Street's Kiss the Cook must be feeling the heat. It won best housewares store in addition to maintaining best kitchen items.

Others handily hung onto their Daysies. Outdoor Gear Exchange, Eyes of the World, Minor Minor, Pet Head Warehouse and Gardeners Supply have won every single year since the competition started in 2003. Now that's power power.



BEST WOMEN'S CASUAL CLOTHING STORE

ECCO

This stylish boutique on the Burlington campus has the best in women's casual clothing, accessories and intimates. 311 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-4000 • eccotheboutique.com

Other finalists:

- **Sister Max**, 30 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1000 • sistermax.com
- **Sweet Lady Jane**, 40 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-5005 • sweetladyjanestore.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Sulnam Boutique

Montgomery, Anderson, Foster, sulnamboutique.com. Offering clothing in most patterns and sizes, it's "thriving your figure instead of hiding it." It's been doing it since 2003. 101 Main St., Montpelier, 802-223-0200 • sulnamboutique.com

Other finalists:

- **Greenaway**, 1800 Mountain Rd., Glover, 802-283-1000 • greenaway.com
- **Woolie Boutique**, 21 Main St., Waterbury, 802-842-4400 • woolieboutique.com



BEST BIKE SHOP

SKIRACK

In a category with lots of stiff competition, Skirack has gained traction among grizzled as the go-to local shop of choice. Whether you're seeking a complete overhaul on an old but reliable beater or a new high-end mountain or road bike, a rental tandem for an afternoon of tooling around the illuminating Bear Path, or some new cycling accessories, Skirack is happy to choose from and knowledgeable staff to help you choose it. Fun factoid: Skirack's four-level shop, at the corner of Burlington's Main and Pine streets, was once home to Ethan Allen's daughter and survived a cannonball shot from a British ship in the War of 1812. Levels that got to do with cycling? Nothing, except that Ethan Allen's homestead is just a short bike ride away. [Skirack.com](http://skirack.com)



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BEST OUTDOOR OUTFITTER

WINNER 2003 - 2015 12 YEARS

FINALIST: 2016

BEST MEN'S WEAR

WINNER 2004 - 15

FINALIST: 2016

BEST MEN'S SHOE STORE

FINALIST 2015

FINALIST: 2016

BEST SKI/SNOWBOARD SHOP

FINALIST 2014 - 15

FINALIST: 2016

BEST PLACE TO BUY WOMEN'S ACTIVE WEAR

WINNER 2005 & 2009

FINALIST 2006 - 2008



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SHOPPING

BEST WOMEN'S EVENING-WEAR STORE

ECCO

Not to play dress up? This Dutch-themed boutique offers interesting wear shoes and accessories in every kind of special occasion. [44 Church St., Burlington, 860-862-1666; www.eccoboutique.com]

Other boutiques

- **Jesse's Boutique**, 30 Church St., Burlington, 860-862-1444; jesseshouse.com
- **Monica's**, 25 Church St., Burlington, 860-860-4900; monicasburlington.com
- **One Gold**, 180 Main St., Burlington, 864-7288; onegoldvermont.com
- **Sassou Lady Jane**, 43 Church St., Burlington, 860-862-1100; sassou.com

BEST MEN'SWEAR STORE

Outdoor Gear Exchange

Recreational wear is practical dresswear — enter Black Diamond from (Vermont) Brothers — andOutdoor Gear defines outdoor wear. It comes in all the right colors, including numerous sweater jackets. [311 Church St., Burlington, 860-860-5900; ogear.com]

Other boutiques

- **Black Diamond**, 70 Church St., Burlington, 860-862-1100; blackdiamondvt.com
- **Warren Supply**, 39 Church St., Burlington, 860-862-1100; warrensupply.com

BEST WOMEN'S SHOE STORE

Daniform Shoes

Spanning three centuries, Daniform offers all types, from casual to formal, from dress to sport. Fitting experts are on hand to make sure every fit is perfect. [400 Church St., Burlington, 860-864-7810; daniform.com]

• **104 Advertising Off., Fletcher Ave. Bldg. 2603**, 3310 Fletcher St., Shelburne, 865-3685

• **105 Advertising Off., 10 Alluvia**, 821-2686

• danshoes.com

Other boutiques

- **Dear Lucy**, 24 Church St., Burlington, 860-862-0700; dearlucyvt.com
- **Evening Shoe & Apparel**, 7015 Eastgate, Williston, 879-6500; 339 N. Main St., Essex, 860-862-1100; 100 Main St., Middlebury, 860-322-2255; 2450 Main Rd., Putney, 874-3724; 1024-1028 - 24 N. Main St., Rutland, 879-6502; eveningshoe.com
- **The Shoe Haven Boutique**, 8 Langton St., Middlebury, 223-8454; shoehavenvt.net
- **Sasha's**, 56 Church St., Burlington, 864-2820; sashasvt.com



BEST CHILDREN'S CLOTHING STORE

Once Upon a Child

Our path-conscious Vermonters have the party wear idea when it comes to kids' clothes — they grew up soiled! Find tops, tunics and hats for your tots, too. [30 Taff Corner Shopping Ctr., Williston, 879-5454; onceuponachildvt.com]

Other boutiques

- **Little Clique**, 20 Church St., Burlington, 860-862-1100; littlecliquevt.com
- **Babies 'n' More**, Schellinger's, 223-2829; babiesnmorevt.com

BEST CHILDREN'S TOY STORE

Once Upon a Time Toys

Patented wooden legs claim around the world and signs here in Williston have been bringing smiles to little faces for 30 years. [111 Mountain St., Williston, 879-8399; onetimetoys.com]

Other boutiques

- **Justine Tree Coats**, Toy Shop, 34 Falls Rd., Williston, 879-3200; justinetreevt.com
- **Westbury Montessori Toys**, 24 Main St., Williston, 879-4455; westburymontessoritoys.com

BEST BRIDAL SHOP

Flori Bridal Boutique

Flori's "big day" is the dream this bridal shop has. It's an intimate and elegant collection of designer gowns. [9 Main St., Essex Junction, 860-651-1100; floribridal.com]

Other boutiques

- **Westminster Bridal**, 87 Main St., South Burlington, 860-752-1454; 166 Main St., South Burlington, 860-864-1454; 100 Main St., Williston, 879-8000; westminsterbridal.com
- **Seedy Heart Bridal**, P.O. Box 821, Williston, 860-9050; seedyheart.com

BEST PLACE TO BUY A UNIQUE GIFT

FROG HOLLOW VERMONT CRAFT GALLERY

In the '90s, Vermont experienced an influx of aesthetic makers who valued the personal, the handmade and the human-scaled. Decades later, Frog Hollow carries on this legacy by making some of the best in Vermont artisans' work available at its Church Street gallery and storefront. Here find everything from natural skin care and shining glass sun catchers to graphic, nature-inspired prints by Sabra Field and Carol Marbeno to sleek, hand-crafted wooden furniture. Jewelry and ceramics abound, and no matter what you pick, it will have the trace of a human hand. [Innards]

85 Church St., Burlington, 863-6456; frogshollow.org

BEST MEN'S SHOE STORE

Lenny's Shoe & Apparel

"We're you right?" promises this mid-size apparel store, which quickly became known for its friendly service and great prices. [100 Main St., Williston, 879-8814; 259 Main St., Middlebury, 860-322-2255; 104 Main St., Middlebury, 860-322-2255; 2450 Main Rd., Putney, 874-3724; 1024-1028 - 24 N. Main St., Rutland, 860-320-3200; lenneysvt.com]

Other boutiques

- **Berkshire Shoes**, 7 Church St., Burlington, 864-3895; 104 Waterbury Rd., Colchester, 865-2453; 3310 Leesburg Rd., Middlebury, 860-322-2255; 104 Main St., Middlebury, 860-322-2255; berkshireshoes.com
- **Business Gear Exchange**, 37 Church St., Burlington, 860-862-0700; busgearvt.com
- **Warren Supply**, 39 Church St., Burlington, 860-862-1100; warrensupplyvt.com

BEST SECONDHAND CLOTHING

Plato's Closet

Great used, name-name clothing, shoes and accessories. It's a total fashion destination, with clothing to fit all body types. Find your old clothes back in the closet! [24 Taff Corner Shopping Ctr., Williston, 879-3600; platosclosetvt.com]

Other boutiques

- **Badass Apparel**, 30 Church St., Burlington, 860-862-1100; badassapparel.net
- **Winding Street**, 100 Main St., Middlebury, 860-322-1100; windingstreetvt.com
- **Bon Chon**, 51 Main St., Burlington, 863-1985; bonchonvt.com
- **Goodwill Industries**, 104 Main St., Middlebury, 860-322-1000; 3310 Harvard Lake, Rutland, 860-888-4900; goodwillvt.org

Other boutiques

- **Advantage Used Cars**, 30 Plaza Rd., Burlington, 860-862-1100; advantageusedcarsvt.com
- **Central Optics**, 97 Lower Mountain View Dr., Colchester, 874-2000; centralopticsvt.com
- **Cycle City of Vermont**, 250 College St., Middlebury, 860-322-2255; 20 Main St., South Burlington, 863-3231; 3310 Harvard Lake, Rutland, 860-888-4900; cyclecityvt.com
- **Leinenkugel's**, 525 Main St., South Burlington, 860-862-1100; 44 Main St., Rutland, 860-888-4900; leinenkugels.com

BEST PLACE TO BUY JEWELRY

Perrywinkle's Fine Jewelry

Perrywinkle's hand-selects diamonds and gemstones to match the wearer's original jewelry in styles from many national brands of jewelry and sources. 227 Main St., Burlington, 802-862-1761; www.perrywinkle.com • perrywinkle@vt.net

Other boutiques:

- **Hick Rock Jewelers**, 145 Rock St., Burlington, 802-864-7280; hickrockjewelers.com
- **Trachtenberg Imports**, 160 Church St., Burlington, 802-865-1999; trachtenberg.com
- **Veronique's**, 100 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1111; veroniquesvt.com
- **Springfield Jewelers**, 10 Arbor St., Springfield, VT 0545-33-33; www.springfieldjewelers.com
- **Veronique's**, 127 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1020; veroniquesvt.com

BEST BEAUTY-PRODUCT PURVYOR

Mirror Mirror

Offering lines of high-quality makeup and skin-care products, this customers finds it like "like walking into a spa." Day spa treatments include the following: acrylic nail dipping and make-up. 20 Main St., Burlington. 802-862-1000; mirrormirrorvt.com

Other boutiques:

- **The Party Shop**, 84 Church St., Burlington, 802-864-1164; thepartystorevt.com
- **MAC Cosmetics**, 84 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1000; www.maccosmetics.com
- **Sephora**, 102 Market St., South Burlington, 802-863-8000; www.sephora.com
- **SpaSkin Naturals**, 68 Main St., Montpelier, 802-775-2100; spaskinnaturals.com

BEST PET SUPPLY STORE

Pet Food Warehouse

Since 1973, this warehouse-style market caters to their animal-loving community for healthy dog treats, kitty toys, biscuits and more. The store offers "We care about your pets." 1500 Williston Rd., South Burlington, 802-554-2455; petfoodwarehouse.com • petfoodwarehouse@vt.net

Other boutiques:

- **Bark Parkin' B. Bark**, 211 Daffy St., Williston, 802-864-5111; barkparkinbbark.com
- **Petco**, 211 Daffy St., Williston, 802-867-0587
- **PetSmart**, 211 Daffy St., Williston, 802-865-2005
- **Old Fashioned Pet**, 50 Allerton St., Montpelier, 802-255-5555; oldfashionedpet.com
- **The Pet Refuge**, 33-35 Park St., South Burlington, 802-860-1740; thepetrefugevt.com
- **PetSmart**, 211 Daffy St., Williston, 802-865-2005
- **PetSmart**, 168 America Dr., Burlington, 802-862-3202; burlingtonpetsmart.com
- **PetSmart**, 211 Daffy St., Williston, 802-865-2005
- **PetSmart**, 211 Daffy St., Williston, 802-865-2005

BEST MUSICAL INSTRUMENT STORE

Advance Music Center

This locally owned instrument shop sells quality guitars, amps, drums and keyboards as well as sheet music and instructional books. It also offers lessons for all levels and rents instruments and equipment. 215 Main St., Burlington, 802-862-1200; www.advancemusiccenter.com

Other boutiques:

- **Capitol Music**, 211 Pearl St., Essex Junction, 802-860-1100; capitolmusicvt.com
- **Guitar Center**, 224 Williston St., Williston, 802-862-1200; guitarcenter.com
- **Guitarland**, 21 Main St., Montpelier, 802-2295555; guitarland.com
- **Randall's Music Store and Guitar Repair**, 215 College St., Second Floor, Burlington, 802-865-3800; randalls.com

BEST LOCAL ART SUPPLY STORE

Vermont Art Supply

Artists individuals get off the ground at this Baumgardner's (formerly called MacKenzie), which carries professional-grade paints, palettes, paper and everything in between. 277 Main St., Burlington, 802-860-2200; vermontartsupply.com

Other boutiques:

- **Artist's Martineau Inc.**, 3003 Cornishman St., Williston, 802-864-1100; artistsmartineau.com
- **Art Materials**, 100 Church St., Montpelier, Second Floor, Burlington, 802-223-0000; artmaterials.com
- **The Painting Source**, 211 Main St., Montpelier, 802-223-0200; thepaintingsource.com
- **HobbyArt**, 1801 Williston Rd., Suite 1, South Burlington, 802-863-0000; hobbyart.com

BEST BOOKSTORE

Phoenix Books

We shop in France, Burlington and Montpelier, names like Ontario and Vermont. Believe it or not, the number of used books are just as diverse. Handbooks and paperbacks are just part of the deal. Many other thousand titles for your reading pleasure. 150 Main St., Burlington, 802-223-0200

Other boutiques:

- **Barney & Binstock**, 102 Church St., South Burlington, 802-860-1100; barneyandbinstock.com
- **Book Point**, 100 Church St., Montpelier, 802-223-0000; bookpointvt.com
- **Cave Booksellers**, 14 Church St., Burlington, 802-863-0000; cavebooksellers.com
- **The Flying Pig Bookstore**, 1247 Greenbriar Rd., Shelburne, 802-869-1111; flyingpigbooks.com

BEST HOUSEWARES STORE

Kiss the Cook

Locally owned and operated for more than 20 years this specialty store offers a variety of quality kitchen items and household products. 12 Church St., Burlington, 802-863-1728; kissthecookvt.com

Other boutiques:

- **Capital Kitchens**, 10 State St., Montpelier, 802-223-0000; capitalkitchensvt.com
- **Homegoods**, 855 Shadelake St., Burlington, 802-863-0111; homegoods.com
- **Market Basket**, 100 Church St., Montpelier, 802-223-0000; marketbasket.com
- **Steve Kitchen Bath & Linens**, 803 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 802-253-8000; stevekitchen.com



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SHOPPING

BEST SECOND-HAND HOUSEWARES STORE

ReSOURCE

Second-hand furniture, clothing, and accessories are the specialty of this secondhand store, known for great used or upcycled items. Trends change season by season, but the store's inventory of clothing, materials, too (201 Pine St., Burlington, 802-864-4415, 301 Pine St., Rutland, 802-786-3300, Green River, 802-786-3300, resourcethrift.org)

Other places to shop:

- **Augie & the Little Pear** 229 Pine St., Burlington, 802-860-1800, augieandthelittlepear.com
- **ReUse Casual Wear** 301 Pine St., Burlington, 802-860-1800, reuseshopvt.com
- **Secondhand 1040** 1040 Shattuck St., South Burlington, 802-860-1200, 1200 Shattuck St., Lake Willoughby, 802-867-1200, secondhand1040.com
- **Seven Mountain Habitat for Humanity ReStore** 1240 Emma St., Williston, 802-588-5600, sevenhabitat.org

BEST ANTIQUE STORE

Anjou & the Little Pear

Let the person at "The Little Pear" guide you through the company's storehouse, featuring an ever-changing selection of items. French and American home furnishings, local art, and upcycled goods. (229 Pine St., Burlington, 802-860-1800, augieandthelittlepear.com)

Other places to shop:

- **Rage Casual Markets** 301 Pine St., Burlington, 802-860-1800, ragecasualmarkets.com
- **ReUse Casual Atticwear** 1040 Pine St., Essex Junction, 802-860-1200, reuseshopvt.com
- **Secondhand 1040** 1040 Shattuck St., South Burlington, 802-860-1200, secondhand1040.com
- **Vintage Jean and Leather Marketplace** 103 Flynn Ave., Suite 2, Burlington, 802-865-9740, vintagejeanandleather.com

BEST FURNITURE STORE

Burlington Furniture Company

Value, comfort, and contemporary design are the hallmarks of this locally owned store. There are more than 100 stores in the U.S. and Canada, so you can find something for every room in your home. (141 Pine St., Burlington, 802-865-9740, burlingtonfurniturecompany.com)

Other places to shop:

- **Antique Furniture Headquarters** 121 Elm St., Rutland, 802-783-2770, 220-301 Main St., Rutland, 802-783-2000, antiquefurnitureheadquarters.com
- **Interstate** 864-1944, interstatevt.com
- **Interstate/Beagle** 2550 Shattuck St., Burlington, 802-860-1200, interstatevt.com
- **Interstate Furniture** 9700 Main St., Suite 100, Colchester, 802-750-1650, interstatevt.com
- **PM South Burlington** 1001 3rd St., pmfurniturevt.com



Age: 39

Occupation: sales associate, Old Gold Tavern, Burlington

Vintage dresses, cowboy boots and garter belts — you find all that and more at Old Gold on Burlington's Main Street. And the sales associates are as colorful as the inventory. Born and raised in Tokyo, Japan, Hiroko Nakatani joined their ranks a couple of years after graduating from Mount Holyoke College. ("The first time I learned I was running in a very smart town in America," she admits.)

At Old Gold, she says, "We charm everybody in town. People come in with all kinds of needs, from overalls to prom. From 'Bring Me to the Cabinet' ... it's a funny feeling when you go to some store and see a room full of people when you dressed up like a flower before."

Nakatani, who makes wearable art and jewels with the Green Mountain Jewelry Collective (a.k.a. "Yogachan Jackson") in her free time, acts as part fashion consultant, part spandex guide. "Most of the time [costume] don't even know what they are looking for [the] day. Sometimes I feel like a detective."

Nakatani can create an outfit from any era, though she has to study up on fashion history "constantly," she says.

In the bigger scheme of things, "I think Old Gold needs so people — I mean lots and lots of people — I can have judgment-free zone to express themselves with however they want to dress," Nakatani says. "People say local boutiques are a part of culture, something that every town should have. I feel like every town should have an old gold."

Local editory role: *The House of Lemmy* (blog performance troupe). I see them at almost every big event in town, parades, marathons, fundraisers. They are old school. They've got their own style. They don't give a shit. They aren't perfect.

Where can you find her on a Friday night? I go to Hong in Burlington. I eat the No. 32 hot-and-cold soup with pork, or the No. 38 shrimp and shrimp. I recommend almost anything they have.

Venues/destinations worth driving for: The Berlin Hotel, Dr. Martin Luther King in White River Junction.

CATHY RESNER

BEST KITCHEN STORE

Kiss the Cook

Patricia Ross is the owner of Kitchen Shop for Superiore cooking — including a kitchen with a "Cupcake Room" — and an after-work sharpening (201 Church St., Burlington, 802-863-4226, kissthecookvt.com)

Coffee & More:

- **At the Corner Flair** 301 H Main St., South Burlington, 802-266-0100, atthecornerflair.com
- **Capital Kitchen** 18 State St., Burlington, 207-232-3341, capitalkitchenvt.com
- **Homestead** 12 Church St., Burlington, 802-863-4544, homesteadvt.com
- **Re:use** 1040 Pine St., Rutland, 802-786-3300, reuseshopvt.com

BEST LIGHTING STORE

Concent Metal & Light

James Storti, Concent and his crew create custom pieces of the customer's dreams. From pendant lights to custom-made lighting options, the shop is a one-stop shop for all your lighting needs. (206 Pine St., Burlington, 802-862-0212, concentmetal.com)

Other places to shop:

- **Light Effects** & Lighting Supply Inc.
- **Route 322** 200-202, route322.com
- **The Lamp Shop** 401 Pine St., Burlington, 802-864-5502, therlampshop.com
- **Light Effects Lamp Shop** 12 H Vermont Ave., Burlington, 802-863-5100, lighteffectsvt.com
- **The Lighting House** 3002 Main Street, Burlington, 802-862-2334, www.thelightinghousevt.com

BEST PLACE TO BUY A COMPUTER

Small Dog Electronics

Not everything after援dered here from the latest in laptops to notebooks, cables and cases. Computer repair? Apparatus for mobile phones and tablets? Small Dog Electronics has you covered. (206 Church St., South Burlington, 802-216-1819, 101 Main St., Williston, 802-595-0100, 750 Main St., Rutland, 802-440-0100, smalldogvt.com)

Other places to shop:

- **Resq** 201 Congress St., Williston, 802-258-0700, 802 Broadwater Blvd., Plattsburgh, N.Y., 518-561-2551, resqvt.com
- **Computech For Change** 109 College St., Burlington, 802-860-0001, computechvt.com
- **Genie** 214 Congress Street in New Or., 802-860-2200, genievt.com
- **Maples** 1001 Williston Rd., South Burlington, 802-862-1225, maplesvt.com

BEST CAMERA STORE

LetZen Camera

LetZen Camera is a camera and lens repair service. 20 plus years of business, specializing in its 20 plus years of business, specializing in its photogaphy equipment. (109 Church St., Burlington Town Center, Burlington, 802-248-0000, letzencamera.com)

Other places to shop:

- **Basic Camera & Video** 864-1140, South Burlington, 802-434-1140, basiccameraandvideo.com
- **Green Mountain Camera** 881 Williston St., Burlington, 802-860-4400, greenmountaincamera.com
- **Photofax** 101 Main St., South Burlington, 802-863-1255, photofax.com



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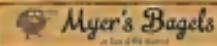
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SERVICES

When it comes to counting your Daysies votes, we breathe a sigh of relief in the services section, which covers everything from best bank to best barbers. In food and drink, we scratch our heads over which brands you mean when you nominate "the guy who makes the latkes at Vergennes Laundry." In arts and entertainment, we know your vote for "the bar upstairs from Nectar's" is really for Club Metronome. Here, your finalists are crystal clear. For one thing, some of these businesses are such institutions that everyone knows their names. And since you nominate them for Daysies year after year, we know they're still banging the goods.

So to the Humane Society of Chittenden County, Shelburne Farms, New England Federal Credit Union, Yankee Tarts and other businesses that continue to come out on top — congrats! You've done it again. And to keep things interesting, we added some new categories this year including best CrossFit studio, best place to get a massage and best lodging. You do smart to learn the winners' names — and not just to make it a little easier on those of us who count the votes.



BEST LODGING
OUTSIDE
CHITTENDEN
COUNTY

TRAPP FAMILY LODGE

Best breads and fresh mountain air are just part of the story at the 2,560-acre property where the family of the Sound of Music fame settled in 1942, after fleeing Nazi-occupied Austria. Today that luxurious lodge, drawn insistantly banks and most-country owners who appreciate the extensive trail network as much as the old black-and-whites of the '40s when Trapp children in dramatic and overwrought. The 98-room, Austrian-style main lodge is a place where you can can traipse in with bluebell and bellflowers collected on a gilded wildflower walk and where adults can sink into a soft couch to plot their next hike. Guests can opt for deer, gophers on the grounds or pan for wrapped children in the dining room — and perhaps a large from the on-site brewery. It all comes with spectacular views of the Green Mountains. Captain Georg Maria and many of the von Trapp children have passed on, but the hills are still alive at Trapp Family Lodge.

700 Trapp Hill Rd., Stowe, 802-253-8518
• trappfamilylodge.com

BEST NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Humane Society of Chittenden County

The HSCC takes in upwards of 1,000 animals a year. On any given day, 300 homeless pets are in their care, and the organization is always looking for the next place to snout their new best friend. Visit 1400 Vermont St., South Burlington 05403; 802-862-0000 • chittendennonprofit.org

Other finalists

- Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) 109 E. Fairmount Ave., Burlington, 802-229-2700 • cotsvt.org
- United 107 City, South Burlington, 802-248-1800 • unitedvt.org
- Greenmont Youth & Family Services, 31 Essexmont Ave., Burlington, 802-220-3100 • greenmontvt.org
- Vermont Foodbank, 33 Park St., Barre, 802-863-2860 • vtfoodbank.org

* = New category in 2016





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SERVICES

BEST VETERINARIAN/ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Green Mountain Animal Hospital

Founded in 1989 by Dr. Jim Strode, this hospital has two locations. Five doctors and a team of skilled technicians from puppy and kitten exams to geriatric needs, there's a full menu of services. 3003 Northgate Rd., South Burlington, 862-3201 • 1327 South Ave., Burlington, 862-3339 • greenmountainvh.com

Other finalists:

- **Wilton Veterinary Clinic**, 2 Chittenden Lane, Wilton, 953-4050 • wiltonveterin.com
- **Vermont Animal Hospital**, 1313 Overlook Rd., South Burlington, 862-2222 • vahvt.com
- **Bitterine Animal Hospital**, 9 River Court Rd., Williston, 879-7094 • bitterinevt.com

BEST PET DAYCARE

Oh my DOG

There's no reason to leave your four-legged friend at home or in a kennel. Daycare, boarding and training facility. They'll even post photos of the fun on its Facebook page. 2000 Superior Ave., Burlington, 860-523-1399 • ohmydogvt.com

Other finalists:

- **The Canine Escapade**, 3 Green Mountain Dr., South Burlington, 862-3607 • canineescapade.com
- **Jefferson Doggie Daycare**, 50 Industrial Ave., Jeffersonville, 862-3444 • jddaycare.com
- **Play Dog Day**, 608 Elm St., Burlington, 540-0541 • playdogvt.com

BEST PET GROOMER

Oh my DOG

"Oh my DOG" services now include a "pooch spa" in the coquettish "sacrum" (buttocks) area. Located in the same space as "Oh my DOG," 11 Elm St., Burlington, 862-3339 • ohmydogvt.com

Other finalists:

- **Blue Moon Pet Grooming**, 151 South Union St., South Burlington, 862-3647 • bluemoonpetgrooming.com
- **Bragg's Doggy Grooming & Groomie**, 920 Elm St., Colchester, 864-2987 • braggsdoggygrooming.com
- **Pawspalooza Pet Grooming & Supply**, 1001 Southgate Ave., South Burlington, 860-524-0000 • pawspalooza.com
- **Sheek Happaas**, 505 Tenney Rd., St. Albans, 500-792-7762 • [Facebook](http://facebook.com/sheekhappaas)



BEST YOGA STUDIO

LAUGHING RIVER YOGA

One may forget Benelli — in Burlington yoga pants are the go-to clothing choice. People from the city in stretchy leggings, ready to enter one of the many local studios promising to free the mind and tighten the backbone. With so much competition, only the good studios stay in business. Laughing River Yoga is one of them. The bright, airy space in the Creek Mill is known for its skilled instructors and welcoming vibe. For beginners to advanced practitioners, here the mat for rigorous vinyasa classes. Armoring and even weather permitting, outdoor sessions overlooking the neighboring Winooski River. As instructors guide students into the deep hamstring stretch of a downward dog-averse, they emphasize the studio's underlying philosophy that yoga is as much about mental well-being as physical.

1400 St., Suite 106, Burlington, 343-8119 • laughingriveryoga.com

BEST WEDDING VENUE

Sheilburne Farms

Whether it's an intimate affair at the Inn or a larger party at the coach barn, the innkeeper gardens, award-winning food culture and Lake Champlain's natural beauty, Sheilburne Farms is a special place to get married. 1011 Harbor Rd., Sheilburne, 585-4636 • sheilburnefarms.org

Other finalists:

- **The Barn at Hopkins Farm**, 440 Route 104, South Burlington, 860-864-2222 • hopkinsfarm.com
- **The Barn at Lang Farm**, Lang Farm St., Essex Junction, 256-4780 • langfarm.com
- **The Essex Ranch & Spa**, 70 Union St., Essex, 863-1852 • essexranchspa.com
- **The Old Lambton Inn & Barn**, 3260 Green Brook Rd., Charlotte, 475-7330 • lambtoninn.com

BEST CATERER

Sugarmap

Like most other wedding planners, Sugarmap's catalog has grown weekly since 2002. With a team of in-house bakers, Sugarmap operates out of an off-site kitchen in South Burlington and 10 locations in the Lake Champlain area. Sugarmap's the top tier caterer. The team also caters weddings and other events. 230 Congress St., South Burlington, 862-2322 • sugarmap.com

Other finalists:

- **Belleauw Fine Events**, 108-6251 • belleauw.com
- **Blue Moon Catering**, 108-6250 • bluemoonvt.com
- **Grassley by Date**, 330 Main Street Rd., Shelburne, 863-3838 • grassleybydate.com
- **High C Catering**, 102 Highgate St., Colchester, 863-5122 • highccatering.com
- **Maple Tree Catering**, 108-6252 • mapletreecatering.com
- **One St. Catering**, 540-5473 • onestcatering.com

BEST FLORIST

Stray Cat Flower Farm

Floral-potted blossoms from a florist like Stray Cat Flower Farm are a good choice. Stray Cat's unique arrangements during the year are a hit. Located in the city and in the Burlington Farmers Market, these roses smelling bouquets are accessible to all. 240 International Rd., Burlington, 865-0068 • straycatflowerfarm.com

Other finalists:

- **Cherry City Flowers**, 1037 Union St., South Burlington, 862-4224 • cherrycityfl.com
- **In Full Bloom**, 515-5151 Shadeland Rd., Shelburne, 935-5602 • infullbloomvt.com
- **Kathy and Company Flowers**, 201 Congress Ave., Burlington, 860-3203 • kathyandcompanyflowers.com
- **Maple Tree Flowers**, 108-6252 • mapletreevt.com
- **Strawberry Fields**, 875-8755 • strawberryfieldsvt.com

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENCY

Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman Realty

At this Burlington-based agency with a local history dating back to the 19th century, more than 100 brokers and staff work with local buyers. Smart technology includes mobile technology and provide rental assistance to both tenants and landlords. 343-1600 • hickokboardman.com

Other finalists:

- **Desmarais Real Estate**, 108-6251 • desmaraisreal.com
- **First Choice Real Estate**, 108-6250 • firstchoicerealestate.com
- **RE/MAX North Producers**, 863-3333 • remaxnorthproducers.com

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Other Realtors:

BEST SALON (UNISEX)

Indigo

This upscale salon underground clientele who manage the cost of living men and women—“selectors of color or business chic”—with haircuts, coloring, conditioning and styling. Services also include facials, manicures and pedicures. 209 Kirby St., Burlington, 804.323.2323 • indigo.com

Other Realtors:

- **Chop 39 Hair Design**, 39 Main St., Burlington, 804.864.4044 • chop39hairdesign.com
- **Urbane Hair**, 240 Main St., Burlington, 804.864.1554 • urbanehair.com
- **St. John's Barber Shop**, 277 St. John St., Burlington, 804.864.3110 • stjohnsbarbershop.com
- **Stephens & Horan Salons, Spas and Facials**, 365 Church St., Burlington, 804.476-4164 • stephensandhoran.com
- **Urban Hair Studio**, 100 Main St., Burlington, 804.863.1222 • urbanhairstudio.com

BEST BARBER/MEN'S CUT

Bugatti Barbers

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Other Realtors:

- **Genovese's Top Cuts**, 95 Lake St., Burlington, 804.863.4412 • topcuts.com
- **The Haircut**, 100 Main St., Burlington, 804.863.2023 • thehaircutvt.com
- **Hyper-Cut Barberhop**, 251 State St., Plattsburgh, 518.567.1100 • hypercutvt.com

BEST BANK/CREDIT UNION

New England Federal Credit Union

Buying a home? Financing over? The largest credit union in Vermont is also one of the most personally. Its commitment to saving & delivering value is the annual Silver Pen, and the Silver Certificate. In 2010, NEFCU got some of the lowest interest rates. Mound. (802.460.4793 • nefcu.com)

Other Realtors:

- **Merchants Bank**, 880-322-4202 • mbvt.com
- **North Country Trust & Savings**, 802.860.4200 • ncts.com
- **North Country Bank**, 802.860.4200
- **Reserve Federal Credit Union**, 888-825-7000 • reservefcu.org
- **Reserve State Employees Credit Union**, 888-371-5802 • reservescu.com

BEST MANICURE/PEDICURE

Bella Vie Nail Spa

Offering a full range of services—nails, waxing, facials and more—Bella Vie Nail Spa offers a wide range of nail services, from green tea pedicures to nail art. The nailbarista service and the nail art service are the best. 100 Main St., Williston, 802.587-7777 • bellavienailspa.com

Other Realtors:

- **Jessie Hall & Spa**, 48 Church St., Suite 102, Burlington, 802.863.0200 • jessiehallspa.com
- **The Mint Spa VT**, 100 Church St., Burlington, 802.863.4199 • themintspa.com
- **Perfect Nails by Thuy**, 100 Main St., Suite 22, Burlington, 802.863.2222
- **Tropical Nails and Spa**, 150 Somer St., Suite 210, South Burlington, 802.970-7444 • tropicalnailsandspa.com

BEST MORTGAGE BROKER

New England Federal Credit Union

With nearly 10,000 members and 71 offices in Vermont, NEFCU is the state's largest credit union. Besides offering loans, savings plans and investment services, NEFCU is a community partner and benefactor of local charities. (802.460.4793 • nefcu.com)

Other Realtors:

- **Bank of America, Farley Independent Mortgage Company**, 101 Market St., Suite 200, South Burlington, 802.863.4000 • bankofamerica.com
- **Gap Defense, Usaa Bank**, 100 Lombard St., South Burlington, 802.863.2000 • usaa.com
- **Kris Hause, Home 1000 Financial Services**, 200 Main Street, Suite 100, South Burlington, 802.863-4400 • krishause.com
- **Sprouse-Hough**, 4100 Graveline Rd., Burlington, 802.863.4400 • sprousehough.com

BEST PLACE TO GET A MASSAGE*

Topnotch Resort & Spa

Take the time to indulge in a massage, a facial, a mani/pedi, a pedicure, a 50-yard swim and a healthy meal at the resort's Dining Room. From the spa, a treat. 2020 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 802.462.3333 • topnotchresort.com

Other Realtors:

- **Day Spa Spa**, 300 Commonwealth St., Suite 200, Williston, 802.863.9999 • dayspaspaspa.com
- **Shanti Name Wellness**, 1000 St. St., Champlain, 802.863.4500 • shantinamewellness.com
- **Stephens & Horan Salons, Spas and Facials**, 365 Church St., Burlington, 802.476-4164 • stephensandhoran.com
- **The Wellness Collective**, 401 Pine St., Suite 302, Burlington, 802.965-8665 • thewellnesscollectivevt.com



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Other Realtors:

- **Chop 39 Hair Design**, 39 Main St., Burlington, 804.864.4044 • chop39hairdesign.com
- **Urbane Hair**, 240 Main St., Burlington, 804.864.1554 • urbanehair.com
- **St. John's Barber Shop**, 277 St. John St., Burlington, 804.864.3110 • stjohnsbarbershop.com
- **Stephens & Horan Salons, Spas and Facials**, 365 Church St., Burlington, 802.476-4164 • stephensandhoran.com
- **Urban Hair Studio**, 100 Main St., Burlington, 804.863.1222 • urbanhairstudio.com

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- **The Haircut**, 100 Main St., Burlington, 804.863.2023 • thehaircutvt.com
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BEST DAY SPA

Oasis Day Spa

Care for a complete body establishment now about Aquaponics-Health Oasis offers a long list of distinctive sounding body treatments — plus hair styling, nail art, micro-massage — and services to a relaxing refuge from everything Mr. (200 Congress Ave., Suite 205, Burlington, 802/865-1700; www.oasisdayspa.com)

Other spas/clinics

- Yankee Spa** 108 Church St., Burlington, 236-7524 • yankeespaspa.com
- Acne & Skin Care** 11 Church St., Burlington, 802/860-4770 • acneandskin.com
- Health & Home Studio** 3pm and 8pm studios 166 Church St., Burlington, 855-4764 • staysmoothbenton.com

BEST RESORT SPA

Topnotch Resort & Spa

Stone's Topnotch as a perfect place to be pampered, open activity room and sign up for a Maple Sugar Body Scrub or a science-aounding Body Composition Analysis. Afterward, take around the steam, sauna or hot tubs or蒸气房 for a sauna session (2003 Main Street, Stowe, 802/253-6800; topnotch.com)

Other spas

- The Spa at Stowe & Spa** 70 Main St., Weston, 164-0700 • stowespa.com
- Jay Peak Resort** 830 Jay Peak Rd., Jay 327-8450 • jayspa.com
- The Spa at Stowe Mountain Lodge** 1001 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 352-3550 • stowespa.com
- Stowe Mountain Resort & Spa** 1465 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 860-845-3100; stowespa.com

BEST LODGING*

Hotel Vermont

Whether you're for green-themed or sprawling, it's Magellan's that sleep deep at that Vermont's independent downtown hotel. With 297 spacious rooms, nine on-table restaurants and bars, and a 24-hour fitness center, it's been named one of the top 10 hotels in the U.S. according to Condé Nast Traveler (41 Church St., Burlington, 802/860-0100; hotelseattle.com)

Other hotels

- Mountain Lodge** 101 Boundary St., Burlington, 656-1100 • lodge.com
- The Essex Resort & Spa** 70 Essex Way, Essex, 878-7000 • essexresort.com
- Montpelier Inn by Hilton** 42 Mount Pleasant Vtne St., Colchester 855-8277 • hilton.com
- The Inn at Stowe** Forest Ave, number 66, Stowe, 860-8454 • stowehotel.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Trapp Family Lodge

After taking the L.T. as the "Trapp Family Singers," the Trapp family has a happy home in Stowe, and loves to open its Chapman Room for their particularly appetizing. These cozy off-guests (most just a few off-the-floor) feature things from open-air fireplaces to rustic rustic rustic (200 Trapp Hill Rd., Stowe, 802/861-1000; trappfamilylodge.com)

Other lodges

- Jay Peak Resort** 830 Jay Peak Rd., Jay 327-8450 • jaypeakresort.com
- Stowe Mountain Resort** 1465 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 860-845-3100; stowemountainresort.com

BEST PLACE TO GET BODY ART

Yankee Tattoo

Got tattoo? You could get some — or maybe — at this well-established "old school" street shop. Link artist Steve "Steek" Hernandez established the Portland Street tattoo in 1985 and, with his son Eric and other tattooists, has been developing lots of tattooed peeps ever since. (109 Pearl St., Burlington, 802/863-3838; yankeetattoo.com)

Other studios

- Aesthetic Inc.** 116 Allen St., Winooski, 338-0600 • 11 Main St., Montpelier 229-8873 • aestheticinc.com
- Artistic Art & Tatoo & Piercing** 218 Main St., Burlington, 802/862-3636 • artisticartandtattoo.com
- John Letts Tatoo & Piercing** 84 North St., Burlington, 802/862-5200
- Magnetic North Tattoo** 47 Main St., Suite 100, Rutland, 852-0942 • magneticnorthtattoo.com

BEST HEALTH CLUB/GYM

The Edge Sports & Fitness

With two locations, the Edge offers swimming, spinning, strength training and physical therapy convenient for just about everyone in Chittenden County. Each location has its own programs, classes and activities to make working out with friends (101 Church St., South Burlington 860-862-1000; 1402 Main St., Suite 300, Winooski 860-549-1000; 100 Main St., South Burlington, 860-862-3363 • theedgesportsandfitness.com)

Other studios

- Greater Burlington YMCA** 200 College St., Burlington, 860-862-1100 • ymca.org
- Madagascar Fitness** 10 Church St., Burlington, 863-8175 • madagascarfitness.com
- Project Fitness** 30 Community St., South Burlington, 863-8958 • 101 Main St., Essex Junction, 860-862-1000 • 100 Main St., St. Albans, 863-8148 • projectfitnessvt.com
- Synergy Fitness** 405 Southgate Ave., Williston, 861-0333 • synergymt.com

BEST YOGA STUDIO

Laughing River Yoga

The end goal of all these sun salutes and downward dog poses is to help you feel better and more balanced. In addition to classes, workshops and retreats, Laughing River's expanded studio now offers massage (704 Main St., Suite 100, Burlington, 343-8779; laughingriveryoga.com)

Other studios

- Burlington Yoga** 200 College St., Burlington, 860-862-1100 • burlingtongym.com
- Divine Physical Therapy & Yoga** 205 Gilbert St., Suite 100, Burlington 864-8642 • divinept.com
- Energy Studio** 125 Pine St., Burlington, 863-4020 • energystudiosvt.com
- Re:gen Rebirth** 125 Enders Way, Suite 100, Stowe, 863-8992 • regenrebirth.com

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OUTDOOR RECREATION AND

BEST IN-STATE WEEKEND GETAWAY LAKE WILLOUGHBY

Not too bad like your grandmother's hedgehog on which grandchild is her favorite, but every Vermont lake is special in its own way. Still, there's no denying that this five-mile-long glacial creation is truly unique. Clear, cold and deeper than a Jack Palance quote, Lake Willoughby is a perennial favorite for Vermonters looking to get away from it all—in part because it doesn't cost you a six-hour drive to the coast of Maine or a cool grand on airfare to the Rockies. Willoughby's sand and sassafras beaches are clean and uncrowded, and the views are amazing—especially from the steep cliffs above. If you're looking for quaint gift shops and delicious eateries, go elsewhere. Willoughby is a place to chill out, and remind yourself why this lake rules the Northeast Kingdom.

[Vtvtta.org/vermont/getaway](http://vtvta.org/vermont/getaway)

Playing Favorites is tough in this section. Frankly, Vermont has so many great places to hike, bike, canoe and cross-country ski that we're a little spoilt, and it can be hard to single out something as the best. What more: some of those places are so special and exclusive—swimming holes, for example—that many voters refuse to reveal them. Hey people sharing is caring!

Thousands of you did spill your secrets, though, and for that we thank you. Many of the old standbys maintained their winning streaks, like Burlington Bike Path Mt., Phis Park and Smugglers' Notch Resort among them. But a few newbys jumped ahead of the pack in categories such as best place to swim. Sand Bar State Park defeated the ever-popular Bolton Potholes. For that, the Town of Bolton is sweet, thank you. The Potholes aren't exactly on public land, remember, and beachy Sand Bar is certainly the smarter choice for splashing around. Safety first!

Then again, why not head to Lake Willoughby for a dip? The remote swimming spot in the Northeast Kingdom scored its first Daytripper in-state weekend getaway.



* New category in 2016

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BEST PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

Rocky Ridge Golf Club

Play 18 holes along rolling terrain and enjoy a meal at the on-site restaurant in just 20 minutes from downtown Burlington. (4101 Route 96, St. George, 802-270-1100; rockyridgegolf.com)

Other finalists

- **Alpena Golf Course**, 3028 Hume Ave., Alpena, 989-223-1131; alpenagolfcourse.com
- **Kehl's Lakefront Golf Club**, 8301 Spruce St., Sheboygan, 888-387-2200; kehls.com
- **The Links at Long Pine**, 39 Casco Way, Essex Junction, 802-862-8100; linksatlongpine.com
- **Wilkerson Golf Club**, 401 W. Main St., Wilkerson, 800-321-1777; wilkersongolfclub.com

BEST SKI/RISE SLOPE

Smugglers' Notch Resort

The smugglers in Smugglers' Notch offers some of the best tree skiing and riding around—not to mention a great terrain park. (800-582-4667; smugglersnotch.com)

Other finalists

- **Stowe Mountain Resort**, 4302 Stowe Valley Access Rd., Stowe, Vt., 802-244-4464; stowemountain.com
- **Jay Peak Resort**, 3330 Jay Peak Rd., Jay, 802-251-1100; jaypeak.com
- **Stowe Mountain Air Resort**, 2091 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 802-256-0000; stoweart.com
- **Sugarloaf Resort**, 152 Forest St., Vassalboro, 800-630-1100; sugarloaf.com

BEST CROSS-COUNTRY SKI AREA

Trapp Family Lodge

In winter the 2,400-acre Austin-Style resort is a cross-country mecca. In summer it offers sailing, tennis, horseback riding, golf, swimming, and Sunday concerts on the meadow. (2700 Austin Rd., Killington, Vt., 802-851-1100; trappfamily.com)

Other finalists

- **Killington Ski Resort**, 4802 Killington Valley Rd., Killington, Vt., 802-256-3644; killington.com
- **Catamount-Snowmass Family Center**, 927 Gov. Ormsbee Rd., Williston, Vt., 802-457-1100; catamount-snowmassfamilycenter.com
- **Catamount Mountain Resort**, 3280 East Union St., Killington, Vt., 802-457-1100; catamount.com
- **Smugglers' Notch Resort**, 3327 Route 108, Jeffersonville, 802-685-4100; smugglers.com



BEST IN-STATE WEEKEND GETAWAY

Lake Willoughby

Take a drive along about 10 miles of the lake's 10-mile-long perimeter. The lake is located between Mount Hor and Mount Peleg. A great spot to go fishing, swimming, and canoeing—or have a picnic back in time. (Presentation Park, Willoughby, Vt., 802-434-2100; vermont.gov)

Other finalists

- **Jay Peak Resort**, 3330 Jay Peak Rd., Jay, 802-251-1100; jaypeak.com
- **Stowe Mountain Resort**, 2091 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 802-256-0000; stoweart.com
- **Stowe Mountain Air Resort**, 2091 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 802-256-0000; stoweart.com
- **Smugglers' Notch**, 3327 Route 108, Jeffersonville, 802-685-4100; smugglers.com

BEST VERMONT DAY TRIP WITH THE KIDS

Shelburne Farms

With the park's solar energy system, the farm's microhydroelectric power system, and the 1,400-acre campus filled with educational center buildings, it's nothing like a vacation at the poshest resort overlooking a lake. (Benton Woods gardens and Lake Champlain, 1001 Harbor Rd., Shelburne, 802-866-5100; shelburnefarms.org)

Other finalists

- **ICM Indoor Climbing Center**, 10 Lake Champlain St., Burlington, 802-864-8100; icmvt.com
- **Jay Peak Resort**, 3330 Jay Peak Rd., Jay, 802-251-1100; jaypeak.com
- **Mountain Museum of Vermont**, 1 Mount Morris Rd., Morrisville, 802-626-1000; mountainmuseum.org
- **Stowe**, Stowe, 802-253-7337; getstoweart.com

BEST FOOT RACE

Vermont City Marathon & Relay

Long-distance runners count the pavement for the annual 26.2-mile course through the South Burlington area. (1 Main St., Suite 304, Burlington, 802-862-1100; vcmr.org)

Other finalists

- **Run Burlington**, Burlington, runburlington.com
- **Cross & Brew Run**, Stowe, crossandbrewrun.com
- **Rocky Gorge 5K Run**, Burlington, vrmra.org
- **Vermont Corporate Cup Challenge and Gasse Agape Run**, Middle St., Williston, 802-743-7028; vcc.org



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BEST PEOPLE-WATCHING PLACE

Church Street Marketplace

Downriver from Burlington, Vermont's only downtown is a hub of shops, restaurants, food vendors, and street performers. When the weather's nice you can get drinks, lunch or dinner outside and watch the world go by. Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1365 • burlingtonvermont.com

Other jewels:

- Burlington Farmers Market City Hall Plaza, Burlington • burlingtonfarmersmarket.org
- City Market, Church Street Marketplace, 825 Church Ave., Burlington, 802-860-4000 • citymarketvt.com
- Keeney's Bistro & Cafe 112 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1199 • keeneysbistro.com
- Waterfront Park, Lenin St., Burlington, 802-860-7147 • waterfrontvt.com

BEST PLACE TO TAKE YOUR PARENTS

Church Street Marketplace

Muse and Care in town: "Dine there to learn about the 'jewels' of a place—a mix of shops, restaurants, stores, vendors, and performers suitable for all ages, those outside in summer for everyone else, people-watching [Church St., Burlington, 802-860-1365 • burlingtonvermont.com]"

Other jewels:

- Laundry Bistro & Cafe 112 Church St., Burlington, 802-860-4000 • laundrybistrovt.com
- Shakeology Farms, 801 Harwood Rd., Shelburne, 802-865-2855 • shakeologyfarmsvt.com
- Waterfront Park, Lenin St., Burlington, 802-860-7147 • waterfrontvt.com

BEST STATE PARK

Mt. Philo State Park

Mt. Philo is the perfect high altitude destination for those who like to hike, bike, and camp. The park is a 1,000-acre island above the 1,000-foot peaks. Open year-round, hikers can ascend through Fallout Hollow, 400-500 feet above the park's 2,000-foot peak. Open year-round, hikers can ascend through Fallout Hollow, 400-500 feet above the park's 2,000-foot peak. Open year-round, hikers can ascend through Fallout Hollow, 400-500 feet above the park's 2,000-foot peak. Open year-round, hikers can ascend through Fallout Hollow, 400-500 feet above the park's 2,000-foot peak.

Other jewels:

- Burke Mountain State Park 7044 Killarney Rd., St. Albans, 802-860-1000 • vtdnr.state.vt.us
- Conant's Harbor State Park, Conant Rd., 802-860-1000 • vtdnr.state.vt.us
- Green Mountain Forest, greenmountainforest.org
- State Bar State Park, 1210 Route 2, Milton, 802-242-2500 • vtdnr.state.vt.us



Age: 27

Occupation: creator of the blog *Disruptive Vermont*

Town: Burlington

"Hometown" place: "Burlington, Vermont" for the past few years urban explorer Chad Abramovitz has traveled to all of those and more on his blog, *Disruptive Vermont*, giving evocative descriptions with striking photos.

Affirmation: "Be intentional with your travel decisions—plan ahead, make sure to have a purpose, go to a destination for what it is, not for what it's not. Be open to the unknown, and be open to the unknown." *Disruptive Vermont* says, "Traveling that way was like going directly into the unknown." He says, "You don't know what is beyond that. Change occurs between the standard world outside and something more ambiguous inside that you can only explore."

Since then, Abramovitz has visited many more local and regional spots— "Too many to count," he says. Struggling with anxiety and depression, he started traveling on a cross-country period of his life. "I always thought that getting myself out there on my interests—and instilling myself with a sense of a way—was going to get me anywhere." But Abramovitz found that quickly attached him, and now gets referred Abramovitz has an off-the-column for the *Portland Reader*—a column about Vermont culture on the destination

America channel, and been profiled in a Seven Days story in Vermont video and a documentary. His takes visitors on his site and says the internet has introduced him to "people that help inspire me and keep me going."

If exploring abandoned structures tempts you, like Abramovitz recommends wearing appropriate clothes, traveling light, carrying a compass and being prepared to deal with the consequences of any trespassing. And don't be consulting your local historical society, he adds. "Vermont is such a quirky town and dynamic state, I think the best experience you can have is to dig into yourself."

Everett's another spot to walk and hike: The White Rocks in Willingboro, an eye-popping 2,600-foot peak where the entire headwall of it crumbled and slid off its starting ridge and crashed down to its base below.

Where to go for exploring: The Greenback Gorge, East Hough and Green Mountain Canoe have always served me really well.

Warren spots people should know about: Chazy River, the L.L. Morris [and] Records "Mountain Spot" (which I used to make with friends) [is] a great spot where we have been said to be dry country and not up hill! —

MARGOT HARRISON

MODERN-DAY SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN

BEST DAY HIKE

Mt. Philo State Park

Even non-hikers scratch their heads when asked to name the best place to go. Mount Philo is the most popular destination in Vermont, but it's not the most interesting. Admittedly it's hard to argue, considering prominent names like Glens Falls, Champlain, and Lake George are all up the summit. (3025 Mt. Philo Rd., Charlotte, 802-860-1000 • vtdnr.state.vt.us)

Other jewels:

- Clouds Hill, 3344 Mt. Philo, Charlotte, 802-860-1000 • cloudshillvt.com
- Hiawatha Trail, 352 Mountain Rd., Underhill, 802-860-2100 • hiawathatrailvt.com
- Shuttle Mountain, Mountain Rd., Underhill, 802-860-1000 • shuttlemtvt.com

BEST PLACE TO BIKE

Burlington Bike Path

This scenic path for bikers, runners and rollers extends 7.5 miles along the Lake Champlain shoreline, from the northern end of Burlington north to the North Creek River. The path connects via bridge with the Lake Champlain bike paths. (Burlington, 802-862-4359 • burlingtonbikeway.org)

Other jewels:

- Greenway Trail, South Burlington to South Burlington, 802-242-2000 • greenwaytrailvt.com
- Kingbird Trail, 488 River Rd., East Batten, 802-367-3490 • kingbirdtrail.org
- Lake Champlain Islands vtdnr.state.vt.us
- Stevens Recreational Path, Stowe, 802-636-3100 • stevensrecpath.org

BEST PLACE TO SWIM

Sand Bar State Park

There's nothing quite like swimming in an ocean, a beach, soft sand, sunny beach, and shallow water that warms you quickly in the sun, making for a day trip to remember. (2015 Route 2, Jefferson, 802-231-2310 • vtdnr.state.vt.us)

Other jewels:

- Baldwin Ponds, Baldwin Valley Access Rd., Stowe
- Loamy Park, 216 Loamy Park Rd., Burlington, 802-860-1000 • loamyparkvt.com
- Maplewood Park, 1000 Maplewood Rd., Burlington, 802-860-1000 • maplewoodparkvt.com
- Orchard Park, Flynn Ave., Burlington, 802-860-1000 • orchardparkvt.com

BEST PLACE TO KAYAK/CANOE

Lake Champlain

As the 13th largest lake in the U.S., Lake Champlain is the ultimate destination for an unforgettable adventure who wants to paddle 100 miles to pull off that *Death Stranding* look. While many think the Champlain Islands are for relaxation and swimming, views,

Other jewels:

- Green River Reservoir, 1993 Green River Dam Rd., Hyde Park, 802-861-5241 • vtdnr.state.vt.us
- Indian Brook Reservoir, 112 Indian Brook Rd., Stowe, 802-242-2000 • indianbrookreservoir.org
- Northway Reservoir, 111 Northway Rd., South Hero, 802-244-2000 • vtdnr.state.vt.us
- Winooski River



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